

Nothing to do a weekday night?
Check out free 'Movie Nights'
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Swimmers, divers, & more!
IGLA Championships take
place this weekend at Stanford.

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Pansy power
Pansy Division's new CD
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see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 33 • No. 34 • 21 August 2003

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Davis to sign DP bill

by Cynthia Laird

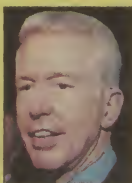
Battling for his political survival as the historic October 7 recall election nears, California Governor Gray Davis pledged last week to sign a sweeping domestic partners bill now in the state Senate.

Davis, a Democrat, issued a statement Friday, August 15 that he intends to sign AB205, authored by out lesbian Assemblywoman Jackie Goldberg (D-Los Angeles). The bill would grant same-sex domestic partners nearly all of the state rights, benefits, and responsibilities currently given to married spouses.

Testimony on AB205 was heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee Monday, August 18, but there was no vote. Goldberg had accepted an amendment that would remove a provision related to same-sex couples being allowed to file joint tax returns. The amendment, however, had not been included in the bill, and Goldberg plans to make the changes in time for an expected vote Monday, August 25.

If passed out of committee, AB205 would next be voted on by the full Senate, then returned to the Assembly for concurrence, said openly gay Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco). Leno told the *Bay Area Reporter* that he expects AB205 to reach the Senate floor "before the end of next week" and go back to the Assembly.

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Gov. Gray Davis

Jane Philomen Cleland

UPS slapped with antigay bias suit

by Zak Szymanski

United Parcel Service may be famous for moving things around the world, but not all of its moves are treated equally, according to Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund.

A lawsuit filed on Tuesday, August 19 charges that the company illegally refused to transfer a gay employee who sought to be closer to his domestic partner.

The lawsuit, filed in Alameda County Superior Court, charges discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, sex, and marital status, for ultimately forcing a man to live apart from his domestic partner of 27 years.

At a press conference on Tuesday, plaintiff Daniel Kline became very emotional when he recalled his separation from his partner.

"I just want to live with the man whom I've spent that last 27 years of my life with," Kline said in a statement. "Even though it's been eight months since we lived under the same roof, I'm still surprised and disappointed every day that I come home from work and he isn't there. I know that I'm not truly home unless he's with me."

Kline, who has worked at UPS for more than 20 years and is nine years away from claiming retirement benefits, is the registered domestic partner of Frank Sories. The men share financial responsibilities, are listed as beneficiaries of each other's insurance policies, and own a home together in San Francisco.

Last October, Sories received word that his company, United Airlines, was closing its San Francisco office. In order to qualify for his retirement plan, Sories was required to move to Chicago in January.

Under UPS's "trailing spouse" policy, according to Lambda, Kline should have been able to follow his partner by transferring to UPS's Chicago office. But Kline's transfer, while approved at district and regional levels, was rejected by the national corporation because the men are not considered legal spouses.

The lawsuit charges violation of state law.

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Plaintiff Daniel Kline dabs his eye as a letter from his partner is read at Tuesday's news conference.

Rick Gerhart

New homophobe on the block: Perkins named to lead FRC

by Bob Roehr

Antigay rhetoric got a new mouthpiece when Louisiana state Representative Tony Perkins was named as president of the Family Research Council. The announcement came in an August 14 news release, and he will take over on September 1.

The FRC is the Washington, D.C. political arm of James Dobson and Focus on the Family. It was founded 20 years ago and was led for a dozen years by Gary Bauer. Its most recent president, Ken Connor, resigned in July for personal reasons, though speculation is that he was not sufficiently antigay for Dobson.

Perkins has no such problem. The Louisiana state legislator successfully led the fight against repeal of the state sodomy law in 2001. "This legislation has nothing to do with what married couples do in their bedrooms. It has everything to do with legitimizing homosexuality," he said during debate on repeal.

He is perhaps best known for pushing passage of the 1997 "Covenant Marriages Laws," a kind of optional super-marriage that requires premarital counseling and sets up tougher standards for divorce. The movement has spread to Arizona and Arkansas.

He also championed legislation that tightly regulates abortion clinics and requires public schools to install filtering software to prevent students from accessing pornography and other materials deemed objectionable.

Perkins, 40 and the father of four, graduated from Jerry Falwell's Liberty University.



Tony Perkins

His checkered work history includes stints in the Marines, in police work, and as a television reporter and news director.

He had vowed to serve only two terms and is leaving the state legislature after eight years. Perkins ran for the U.S. Senate last year and, in Louisiana's unique open primary, garnered barely 10 percent of the vote, coming in fourth. He made noises about running for lieutenant governor this year, then announced for state treasurer, and in June when the incumbent decided to run for re-election, switched to insurance commissioner.

At a Baton Rouge news conference withdrawing from that race, Perkins said that going to the FRC "will allow me to address the issues I'm most passionate about." Among the most immediate will be "defend-

ing the sanctity of marriage and keeping it to one man and one woman."

"The very bedrock of our society and nation, the institution of marriage, is under attack," said Dobson, a member of FRC's board of directors, who hired Perkins. "I can't think of anyone more prepared to lead FRC and to promote and defend the sanctity of marriage and the family at this time than Tony Perkins."

The specter of gay marriage appears to be the one hot button issue that continues to open the checkbooks of the faithful at a time when many socially conservative organizations are tightening their belts. Look for FRC to maintain — is it possible to increase? — the vitriol over gays that has been a hallmark of the organization since its founding. ▼

Honoring Mark Bingham



Alice Hoglan, mother of September 11 hero Mark Bingham, is flanked by District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty, left, and city Treasurer Susan Leal at the August 16 dedication ceremony renaming the gymnasium at the Eureka Valley Recreation Center the Mark Bingham Gymnasium. Mr. Bingham is widely recognized as one of the passengers who intervened on hijacked United Flight 93 before it crashed into a Pennsylvania field. He was a San Francisco resident who was active in the business and sports communities, including the San Francisco Fog rugby team.

Jane Philomen Cleland

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Pride in the 'Biggest Little City'



A va Grab-more salutes her fans during Reno's fifth annual Gay Pride event Saturday, August 16. More than 30 contingents marched down Virginia Street in the "Biggest Little City in the World." Nearly 3,000 people attended the parade and festival, and for the first time, some Reno casinos contributed to Pride activities, providing hotel rooms and help with the festival site. The parade was started in memory of Bill Metz, a Reno man who was killed in a hate crime stabbing in 1994.

Second annual East Bay Dyke March Sat.

by Zak Szymanski

Once again bringing visibility to Bay Area lesbians, dykes, queers, and women of all stripes, the second annual East Bay Dyke March and Festival will be held this Saturday, August 23, around Lake Merritt in Oakland.

Presented by Sistahs Steppin' in Pride, the event welcomes "all of us women who recognize the necessity to come together from a space of Sisterhood and Sisterlove," according to organizers. "The separations of American-mainstream-patriarchy says 'you have to be so-and-so to be in the so-and-so group.' Sistahs Steppin' in Pride challenges that myth."

With a diverse crowd welcomed and encouraged, the East Bay Dyke March begins at 10 a.m. with a gathering in front of the pillars at El Embarcadero. The march kicks off at 10:30 a.m. and

ends up at the "Sistah Village" for a festival in Snow Park, at 20th and Harrison streets; a bag lunch is recommended.

Village activities include an opening ceremony at 1 p.m., and a group photo immediately following; a sacred tree, where participants will contribute an item to the altar; live entertainment on the Sistah Stage; vendors; children's space; elders' space; a "Healing Hut"; and a driving range (bring your golf clubs).

Also featured is a community drumming effort, with drum loans provided by Spirit Drumz, New Rhythms Foundation, Drum and Dance, and Drumskull Drums. Drums and other instruments will be featured prominently as the "heartbeat" of the march, and those interested in borrowing percussion can exchange their valid identifications for drums on a first-come, first-served basis, beginning at 9:30

a.m. at the pillars at Lake Merritt. A community drumming space is also planned for the festival.

Additionally, to prepare for Saturday and to initiate the spirit of community, a pre-march gathering will be held Friday, August 22, from 6-11 p.m., in the Fruitvale section of Oakland. Attendees can create banners and shakers for the march, sip iced tea, meet new people, and participate in a drum circle. A \$10 donation is suggested; call (510) 534-9603 for information and directions.

Saturday's Dyke March is accessible via the MacArthur BART and the AC Transit 57 bus line to Grand Avenue. The festival area is accessible from the 20th Street BART station.

Last year's East Bay Dyke March drew more than 300 people, and more are expected for the event's second year. Visit www.sistahsteppin.org for additional information. ▽

Study: Medical pot safe for HIVers

by Liz Highleyman

New research shows that medical cannabis is safe for people with HIV, according to an article published in the August 19 issue of the *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

The study, conducted by Dr.

Donald Abrams of the University of California at San Francisco and colleagues, found that HIV-positive patients taking antiretroviral therapy did not experience increases in viral load when using either smoked marijuana or dronabinol (Marinol), an oral pill containing THC, one of the active ingredients of cannabis.

"People with HIV are a vulnerable population, so successfully addressing the safety concerns allows us to move on to effectiveness studies," said Abrams. Three such studies are currently under way at UCSF.

The study was intended to show whether cannabis alters HIV

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Two SFPD inspectors out of hospital

by Cynthia Laird

The two veteran lesbian San Francisco Police inspectors who were allegedly stabbed by a Daly City man last week are out of the hospital and recovering at home, an SFPD spokeswoman said.

Inspector Lea Militello, co-chair of the SFPD Pride Alliance, an association of LGBT officers, was released from the hospital last Tuesday, August 12. The second officer, Inspector Patricia Correa, was released from San Francisco General Hospital on Monday, August 18.

Militello and Correa were in-

vestigating a cabdriver suspected of shooting a pellet gun at a family earlier in the day on August 11 in San Francisco. The investigation led the pair to Daly City, where they arrived at the Daly City home of Jerry Lariosa Cabonce, the suspected cabdriver. According to police and witness accounts, Cabonce, armed with a butcher knife, jumped out of his taxi and engaged both officers. Correa, who suffered the more serious injuries, was stabbed twice in the left side of her lower torso and also sustained a collapsed lung. Militello was stabbed once in the upper chest.

Cabonce was arrested a few hours after the 2:35 p.m. incident

after a SWAT team stormed the house.

The San Francisco District Attorney's office agreed to let the San Mateo County District Attorney's office handle the entire case.

"The most serious crimes occurred in their jurisdiction and we concluded that the case could be prosecuted more efficiently if the entire crime spree was included in a single complaint," deputy district attorney Linda Klee said in a statement.

A spokeswoman for the San Mateo D.A.'s office said Wednesday, August 20 that Cabonce was due in court that afternoon to enter a plea and obtain a public defender. ▼

Supervisors expected to pass DP reciprocity ordinance Tuesday

by Zak Szymanski

A simple administrative change about to be passed by the Board of Supervisors may have a significant effect on the road toward LGBT equality.

Supervisor Chris Daly's domestic partnership reciprocity ordinance has been unanimously passed by the board twice. The proposed law amends Chapter 62 of the San Francisco Administrative Code by adding Section 62.10 to extend recognition of domestic partnerships, civil unions, and other similar legal relationships to couples who originally registered in other jurisdictions but now live

in San Francisco.

In short, the proposed law will mean that domestic partners from other cities and states will not have to re-register upon moving to San Francisco in order to receive the legal and economic benefits that San Francisco's ordinance provides. This is the same automatic recognition of partnership that married couples would receive upon moving to a different city or state.

Daly's ordinance was expected to see final passage at Tuesday's board meeting, but at the last minute an amendment was added to clarify that the measure would apply only to couples, as states like Hawaii have broad domestic part-

nership legislation that allows registration for blood relatives and other family members.

The bill is now expected to be approved at the next board meeting, on Tuesday, August 26. It will then go to Mayor Willie Brown for his signature. A message left with P.J. Johnston, Brown's press secretary, was not returned at press time.

"This is an important step toward bringing equality to same-sex relationships," said a statement from Supervisor Daly. "It sends a strong message that the City and County of San Francisco believes same-sex relationships deserve equal protection and consideration under the law." ▼



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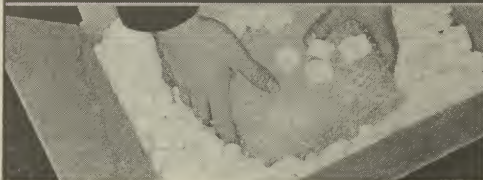
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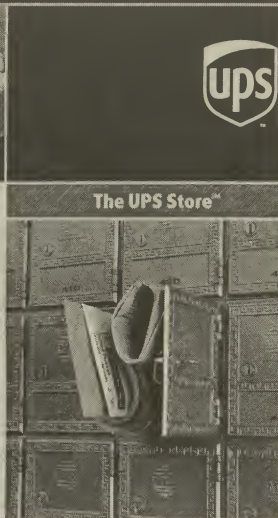
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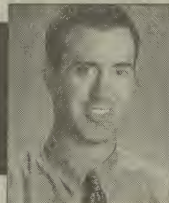
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Out on a limb

by Jane Warner

Church and Market, August 15, 10:13 a.m.: Police responded to a call regarding a man who had apparently hung himself from a tree on the corner of Church and Market. Rushing to the scene, an officer found the victim with one sleeve of a blue sweater wrapped around his throat, and the other sleeve tethered to a tree branch. Although the man's feet were touching the ground, his body was limp as he hung from his neck. The officer immediately untied the sweater from around the man's neck and laid him down on the sidewalk. The victim, who was barely conscious, looked at the officer and told him, "Fuck you. I wanted to kill myself." The officer noticed the man had a strong odor of alcohol on his breath, and his pants were unzipped and stained with urine. Credited with saving the man's life, the officer administered first aid and called for an ambulance. The victim, 39, was taken to San Francisco General Hospital where he was admitted for psychological evaluation.

Plan B

Senior Center, 30th and Dolores, August 11, 10 a.m.: While standing in front of the senior center, a 77-year-old man was ap-

proached by a woman who appeared very excited and told him in Spanish she had just won the lottery. The woman stated, however, that because she was not a U.S. citizen, she could not cash in the ticket and needed his help. In return for his assistance, she would split the winnings. The woman asked the man for \$20,000 so she could retain a lawyer.

The scam artist was soon joined by a second suspect, a man who also spoke Spanish and told the victim he would take him to his bank to get money. When the senior citizen refused to get into the man's car, the suspect became angry and brandished a handgun, forcing the victim into the vehicle.

The trio drove to the victim's residence in Daly City where the suspect rummaged through his house and took \$1,000. Leaving the residence, they drove to Bank of the West at Mission and 21st. Fearing for his life, the victim withdrew \$900 as the suspects waited in the car. When the victim returned, he turned over the cash and the suspects drove off in an unknown direction, leaving the victim standing in front of his bank.

The first suspect was described as an Hispanic female, 30-35 years old, 5 feet 5 inches, 145 pounds, wearing a tan shirt and tan pants. The second suspect, also Hispanic, was in his 30s, 5 feet 5 inches and

160 pounds, wearing a brown shirt, white pants, and tan leather shoes. The vehicle used was a tan sedan with California plates that possibly ended with numbers 24.

Hammer time

4100 block of 21st Street, August 7, 5:30 a.m.; 600 block of Elizabeth, August 14, 3:35 a.m.: A resident who went into his kitchen to get a glass of water early on August 7 heard a loud noise, looked out his window, and saw a large black SUV backed into his neighbor's garage. Three men walked to and from the garage loading the SUV with several tools. Knowing that the house was under construction, the resident thought workers were loading tools for another site, thought nothing of it, and went back to sleep. Later that morning, however, a construction crew arrived for work and discovered the garage door had been forced open and several expensive tools - including a \$1,800 jackhammer, a \$1,000 nail gun, and a \$2800 pipe threader - were missing. The neighbor was interviewed by police but because he did not think the incident was significant at the time, could not remember many details.

A week later, on August 14, at 3:35 a.m., a resident on the 600 block of Elizabeth heard a loud noise coming from outside his house, looked out his bedroom window, and saw a man breaking into a locked box in his neighbor's front yard. Knowing his neighbors were away, the man called 911 as he

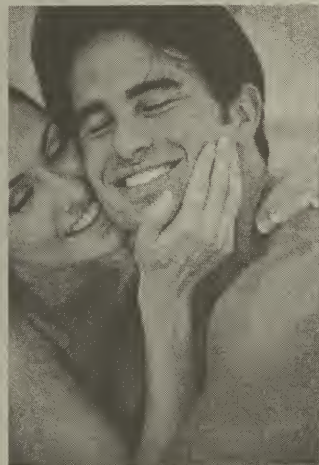
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Lawyers give official nod to second-parent adoptions

by Zak Szymanski

Fresh off a California Supreme Court victory that affirmed the validity of second-parent adoptions, LGBT legal advocates were once again cheering when the American Bar Association, the country's largest legal group, voted last week to approve a resolution that supports second-parent adoption laws nationwide.

"This is a very important step forward for children who deserve legal protection for their familial relationships," said Mark Agrast, chair of the ABA Section of Individual Rights and Responsibilities. "We are very gratified the ABA has taken this step to protect children."

Second-parent adoptions, a concept introduced in the early 1980s by the National Center for Lesbian Rights, is a procedure by which both members of a same-sex or other unmarried couple can establish legal parental relationships with their children. Under the procedure, a person can adopt his or her partner's biological or adoptive child without terminating the first parent's legal status as a parent. The adoptions protect children in same-sex families, as well as the second parents by en-

suring their rights to a relationship regardless of a couple's separation or partner/parent death.

ABA passed its resolution in favor of second-parent adoption laws on Tuesday, August 12 at its annual conference, which was held this year in San Francisco. The vote builds upon ABA's previous stances in favor of legal rights for LGBT families, including the organization's 1995 prohibition of using a parent's sexual orientation as a factor in custody cases, and its 1999 vote in favor of gay adoption.

Although implemented in various regions nationwide, second-parent adoptions have also endured legal battles, sadly often as a result of same-sex couples using homophobic laws and attitudes for their personal gain. California's recent court case, for instance, involved a San Diego couple, Annette Friskopp and Sharon Silverstein, who broke up after an 11-year relationship, during which Friskopp petitioned to legally adopt the couple's children who were born to Silverstein. As a result of the couple's separation, Silverstein sought to withdraw consent for the second-parent adoption of the couple's youngest son, and in 2001, the San Diego appellate court ruled 2-1 in

Sharon S. v. Superior Court that California law does not authorize second-parent adoptions.

On Monday, August 4, California's Supreme Court overturned that ruling, making it the ninth jurisdiction in which an appellate court has approved second-parent adoptions. Other states affirming the procedure include the District of Columbia, Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Vermont. And last week's ABA decision, said its members, should have a great influence on the direction of future cases.

"Support for second-parent adoptions is now official ABA policy," said Courtney Joslin, co-chair of ABA's Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Committee. "This will send a powerful message to legislatures and courts that second-parent adoptions are sound policy and should be made available to protect children with same-sex parents."

The ABA provides law school accreditation, continuing legal education, information about the law, assistance to lawyers and judges, and initiatives to improve the legal system for the public. Its membership totals more than 400,000 people. ▼



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OPEN FORUM

Queer eye for that Gray guy

Governor Gray Davis's statement late last week that he intends to sign AB205, the sweeping domestic partner bill, was somewhat of a surprise. In his five years as California's chief executive, Davis has not been known to publicize his intentions on bills before they reach his desk. Lately, however, Davis has been crisscrossing the state, making several such announcements, undoubtedly because the special October 7 recall election has forced him into the fight of his political life.

Our response to this news on Saturday was: Wow, why hasn't Davis acted like this for the last five years? Davis's centrist approach to governing obviously hasn't served him well, and now, given the very real possibility that he may be forced from office, the governor is recasting himself as a "progressive" — he's used the word many times this summer — and turning to the left.

Gay rights activists are pleased that Davis has said he will sign AB205, which provides many of the rights and responsibilities to same-sex couples that married couples receive. And interestingly, many have been zeroing in on the "responsibility" part of the bill. Should it pass out of the Legislature — and indications are likely that it will — gay and lesbian couples will face legal obligations such as child and spousal support, and have access to divorce court. We understand that testimony heard in a state Senate committee Monday included comments from a woman who told the panel that she could get off welfare if AB205 became law, presumably because she could receive spousal support from her former partner. Yes, domestic partnership is not all warm and cuddly; there will be real responsibilities that couples who register with the state will face, and frankly, this is a positive sign. If we want the same rights as married couples, we need to accept the responsibility for issues like child support and community property that come with the end of a relationship.

But it's also important to emphasize that

AB205 is not gay marriage. Republicans, of course, are arguing that it is, but it simply is not.

In making his announcement, Davis has signaled to the LGBT community that we are valued and deserve to be treated equally. To his credit, Davis has been a consistent supporter of equal rights for the LGBT community: he signed the gender nondiscrimination bill earlier this month and in 1999 signed the bill that created California's domestic partner registry. Since then, gay and lesbian legislators and groups such as Equality California have been working within that framework to expand our rights. Geoffrey Kors, executive director of Equality California, put it this way: "California is leading the effort to recognize couples by domestic partnership. It seemed right to provide these [rights] through a system already in place."

When it was announced last month that the recall had indeed been certified, we didn't think Davis would sign any of the LGBT-

related legislation, fearing a backlash from the right. But Davis has taken the bold step of forging ahead, and that's a good thing.

Davis's gay aide Eric Bauman, who's on leave from his job to fight the recall, indicated that the LGBT community will be a focus of the get-out-the-vote effort. And while Lieutenant Governor Cruz Bustamante — who's running on the replacement list of candidates should the recall succeed — also supports AB205, we believe Davis came out in favor of it in an effort to stave off support for Bustamante. Davis wants the recall to lose so that he can remain governor.

While Davis's recent conversion to so-called progressive politics is welcome, we don't know whether it will be enough to save his job. But it's good to see that as he battles the recall, he has remained committed to equality for gay and lesbian couples, rather than taking the more conservative approach, which is what we had expected. ▼

Editorial



AIDS Walk ASOs held hostage?

by Patrick Monette-Shaw

The B.A.R.'s AIDS Walk article and editorial July 24 raises important accountability questions the San Francisco AIDS Foundation has failed to answer. But it's not just the walk that needs revamping. It's time our diverse community demand greater control over equitable philanthropic distribution of charitable-giving resources, because SFAF's own behavior causes "donor fatigue" and "beneficiary fatigue." Prior to AIDS Walk 1996, SFAF failed including in its tax returns how, or whether, it shared funds raised at walks with the 30-plus Bay Area AIDS service organization "beneficiaries." Only following intense community pressure did activists force SFAF and its subcontractor, then the Tides Foundation, into opening books to public scrutiny by publishing walk "grants" awarded. This victory occurred in AIDS Walk 10; seven years later, cumulative data from SFAF's tax returns is disturbing.

Records from the California's Attorney General's Office of Charitable Trusts date back only to AIDS Walk 4 (1990); the first three event producer annual reports are missing and 2003's report is due in January 2004. The 13 reports available (1990–2002) reveal annual event expenses soared nearly \$1 million to \$1.333 million, while revenue after expenses plummeted from 80 percent to only 61 percent. Cumulatively, MZA Events, the walk's producer, has spent \$11.2 million on expenses. Since 1996, expenses as a percentage of revenue climbed 14 percent to 38 percent. Between 1999–2002, MZA's expenses skyrocketed \$300,000, while between 2000–2003 gross revenue plummeted \$700,000 — a combined \$1 million loss.

Had SFAF restrained MZA's expenses, funds saved could have benefited smaller ASOs. Although SFAF waged a nasty, public

battle with Pallotta Teamworks over out-of-control AIDS Ride expenses, SFAF appears wholly unable to control MZA's exorbitant spending.

While SFAF casts a blind eye toward "insider" event producers, the percentage of funds returned by MZA is a major cause of donor fatigue. Hundreds of donors, disgusted by SFAF's management, have stopped contributing to SFAF Beneficiary organizations, also fatigued, must unanimously demand fair-share accountability.

Of the \$3.6 million raised at Walk 2001, event expenses consumed 37.2 percent (\$1.35 million). Of total grants awarded, a mere 2.81 percent (\$215,253) went to 11 Bay Area ASOs outside of San Francisco County. Another 18 smaller San Francisco County ASO's were granted 3.72 percent (\$284,931). Combined, only 6.53 percent (\$500,184) of grants awarded went to these 29 ASOs, while nine needle exchange and substance abuse organizations received 10.08 percent (\$773,206). SFAF awarded its three partners (Shanti, Project Inform, and UCSF) 3.10 percent (\$237,500), exceeding grants made to the 11 Bay Area ASOs. Of \$22.14 million raised at walks between 1996–2001, SFAF retained \$8.79 million, spent \$6.3 million on expenses, and granted \$2.34 million to needle-exchange and substance abuse projects, while 64 of the smaller ASOs received only \$3 million.

Also during 2001, SFAF dipped into its own funds, diverting \$2 million dollars in grants to organizations in Africa to augment \$4.4 million granted to SFAF by Pfizer. SFAF awarded 79.7 percent (\$6.45 million) of its total \$7.68 million grantmaking to global organizations in 2001, while awarding the measly \$500,184 (6.53 percent of total grantmaking) to the 29 non-partner, non-needle exchange ASOs.

Smaller ASOs should form a coalition,

and tell SFAF it can no longer use the good names of these ASOs as so-called beneficiaries to lure walkers, when in fact these ASOs are grantees held hostage to SFAF's grantmaking decisions. They should negotiate guaranteed fixed percentages of proceeds under the beneficiary model and seize control of fundraising costs by demanding the event producer's (MZA's) contract be competitively bid to lower the \$1.33 million in walk expenses to the 1990 amount of \$389,671. MZA's \$150,000 management fee and fees paid to the Horizons Foundation for grant recommendations under the grantee model might both be eliminated, replaced by pre-negotiated beneficiary model revenue sharing. This coalition should demand restricting how much, or whether, event revenue can be allocated to global projects, since most donors participate to raise funds for great unmet needs in the Bay Area. Alternatively, the coalition should consider forming a competing event, breaking from SFAF as it broke from Pallotta.

SFAF's current budget slashes grantmaking by \$1 million over the previous year's amount of \$393,268. Until SFAF revamps its operations, including firing Executive Director Pat Christen, inequitable disparities in revenue sharing will continue. To advocate for, or demand, changes to SFAF's grantmaking processes, public testimony at its August 25 board of director's meeting is encouraged. Pre-registration rules (48-hours beforehand) can be found searching for "board" at www.sfaf.org.

To ensure your donations are shared equitably throughout the Bay Area, mail donations directly to ASOs you prefer funding, not to SFAF. Lacking accountability checks and balances, it's time to stop enabling SFAF's grantee model hostage-taking. ▼

Patrick Monette-Shaw has monitored SFAF's finances for six years; his analyses are at www.thelastwatch.com.

LETTERS

Not an Arnold fan

Your front page headline on August 14 suggests that Schwarzenegger's position on gay rights would influence our vote in the recall election [Schwarzenegger mum on gay rights—so far, August 14]. I don't care if he endorses gay marriage, he will never have my vote. Of course, the candidates' positions on gay rights are important, but this is not a one-issue situation. Too much is at stake involving all issues of concern to the citizens of California to decide on the basis of gay rights alone.

Personally, I did not vote for Gray Davis last year, largely because of his support for prison construction, three strikes, the death penalty, and his refusal to grant parole to various prisoners, including gays, who had served their sentence and were recommended for parole by the state parole board and the courts.

In spite of that, I will vote no in the recall election because I feel this is an assault on the basic principle of regular elections, and that no case of malfeasance in office has been made to warrant removing the governor. I will vote no to recall Davis, and then vote for Cruz Bustamante, to have a Democratic governor in the event that Davis is recalled.

The recall is a circus, and I feel California is in big political trouble. The thought of Schwarzenegger as governor fills me with horror, regardless of his position on gay rights.

Jim Paton
El Cerrito, California

Refuting rumors

Some queer supporters of Supervisor Tom Ammiano, both in the *Bay Area Reporter* and elsewhere, have responded to Board of Supervisors President Matt Gonzalez's entry into the mayoral race by raising the issue of homophobia in the progressive community ["LGBT progressives react to Gonzalez mayoral campaign," August 14]. They say or imply that some of Gonzalez's supporters think Ammiano isn't "man enough" to take on Gavin Newsom, or that stereotypes about Ammiano's voice and mannerisms are responsible for his lack of support among some progressives.

While those making these statements have been careful to avoid accusing Gonzalez himself of homophobia, it has come to my attention that some people are now saying just that. As the founder of the San Francisco Lavender Greens, the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer caucus of the San Francisco Green Party, I want to refute this allegation and stop the rumor-mongering before it gets out of control.

Matt Gonzalez has been a stalwart friend of our community throughout his political career. Queer people are prominent among his top staff and advisers, including his current campaign manager. He has consistently voted to protect our interests on the Board of Supervisors, and would undoubtedly continue to do so as mayor. Among other accomplishments, Gonzalez introduced and won passage of legislation to create a memorial to Harvey Milk at City Hall.

There may be some Gonzalez supporters who are homophobic, although I have not encountered homophobia among the many Gonzalez supporters I know, both gay and straight. There could just as easily be Ammiano supporters who are racist or sexist. That would not mean that women or people of color should not support him.

While I think it is important to encourage people to examine unconscious stereotypes about gender and sexuality, I question the timing of the statements made by Ammiano's supporters. In the context of a hotly contested mayor's race, they seem more like attempts to discredit one of the candidates than genuine efforts to advance a meaningful dialogue about homophobia. I hope that in the future we can all return our focus to advancing a progressive agenda for our city and achieving our common goal of defeating Gavin Newsom and the political machine he represents.

Michael Alterman
San Francisco

'Defining moment' at hand

This year's mayoral election will be a defining moment for San Francisco's LGBTI and progressive communities. We have had eight years of a corrupt administration that has showered favors on its friends while important public services have remained under attack. While our community suffers from the effect of a speed epidemic, for example, the goal of drug treatment on demand has faded further into the distance. As our economy tanked and working people—including countless LGBTI people—lost health insurance, the current administration at one point proposed cutting public primary care services for the uninsured by half. Meanwhile, the handpicked successor to this madness has raised \$2 million to campaign for the right to give us more of the same. Much of that money has come from some of the world's richest people, who have never been friends of our communities.

San Francisco is fortunate to have three progres-

sive candidates willing to take on this big money campaign. One, Matt Gonzalez, entered the race at the deadline, surprising even some of us in the Green Party. I'm supporting Matt's candidacy, both because I think he is the best candidate, and because I think he has the best chance at victory in this crucial race. Matt has consistently been there for our community. Most recently as president of the Board of Supervisors, he helped protect services, including health services to transgender and HIV-positive people, in the face of the biggest budget deficit in history.

San Francisco progressives have unfortunately, on occasion, turned their sights on each other instead of keeping the focus on the good of our city. We need to be clear: our city would be well served by any of three progressive candidates. Choosing one over the other to support is not a betrayal of our movement, nor does it reflect homophobia, gender, or racial bias. Each campaign will turn out progressives to the polls. We Greens are still pushing for instant runoff voting, but if there's a December runoff, we will all join forces to make sure we will have a progressive mayor who will make us proud.

Paul Quick, M.D.
San Francisco

Don't whitewash the past

I am always amazed at the cavalier way in which church officials deal with issues such as the ordination of gay clergy. In the August 7 *Bay Area Reporter*, an Episcopal bishop is quoted, "We have always said there are no outcasts in the Episcopal church" ["Episcopalians confirm first openly gay bishop"].

This is an astounding statement. I could introduce him to many, including myself. What about the many men who have been turned out of the priesthood to live in near poverty because it was rumored that they were gay. Outcasts? I think so.

Many years ago, because I was living "with a male lover" (his words), he told me he could not "condone or endorse" what I was doing. I replied to him, among other things, that it was my "fervent hope that some day the churches will come to realize that whether or not they approve of us that we are human beings and should be allowed to live as such" and that I would continue to lend my support to the cause of gay rights. An outcast? You bet I was.

The times, they are a-changing, but let's not whitewash the pain that the Episcopal Church has caused many. May it come kicking and screaming into the 20th century—and maybe some day into the 21st.

Richard Hewetson
San Francisco

So who is Wayne Friday's darling?

Mr. Friday has lately taken to dismissing Howard Dean in his column as "the darling of the lefties" who is "supposedly climbing" in California.

They are fightin' words here in Frisco, baby!

Boy am I glad I lived in the former Soviet Union for a few years and learned how to "read" political commentators. A crash course in Kremlinology tea leaf interpretation taught me all I need to know about floating trial balloons, poisoning the well, damning with faint praise, and other nifty tricks in punditry.

Friday is entitled to his opinions of course, but spin is spin and I prefer to look at the facts. An unprecedented outpouring of grassroots activism for Dean and, even more importantly, incredible financial support from small donors mobilized by an innovative online campaign has put the Democratic Party mandarins—and the Bush league—on notice that energized constituents refuse to accept a repeat of the 2000 election campaign fiasco.

And if a governor who put his state government budget into surplus while extending health insurance coverage, protecting the environment, and signing the civil unions law (while ironically earning the highest rating for governors from the National Rifle Association) is a "lefty darling," well then, I say this country needs such a darling as president.

I truly enjoy reading Friday's column every week to get my fill of the cheese and the sleaze of SF politics. So let him spit and sneer at Dean. After all, if Friday doesn't like fiscal responsibility and moderately progressive social views, that's his problem. We Dean supporters, on the other hand, will continue to work to take our country back. Just watch us.

Peter Beijer
San Francisco

A few words from 'Gay Brother'

Kudos to Matthew S. Bajko for his article on guerrilla stickerers in the Castro ["Guerrilla stickerers take their message to the streets," July 17]. Stickers and posters are one of the few ways individuals and unfunded groups have for communicating with the Castro community and its visitors. Unlike retail stores with large windows and organizations with large advertising budgets, we must be creative and persistent to be heard in our neighborhood. The Castro is more

next page ►

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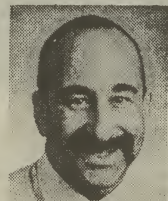
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Mailstrom

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than a mall, it is the crossroads for many gay persons with many viewpoints who all deserve to speak. I suggest that the true indicator of a "Castro Renaissance" is this abundant, messy, and "illegal" form of speech, not apolitical and clean surfaces.

I am the guy behind the "Hey Gay Brother" campaign, and I would like to say a few words about it. I posted these stickers in the Castro during the film festival, up until gay Pride. Each began with the same intro: "HEY GAY BROTHER: YOU ARE MORE THAN..." and continued with 25 variations, some of which were "WHAT THEY THINK," "WHAT THEY SAID," "WHO CRUISES YOU," "YOUR COCK SIZE," "TOP OR BOTTOM," and "NEG OR POZ."

I did the campaign as a celebration of gay pride and a gift of hope to others. In each sticker, I asked my gay brothers to be critical of how we judge our own worth. I am concerned that what we are saying to one another about what a gay man should be is too small. Especially with the Castro's preponderance of bars, expensive clothes, porn, and gyms, one can see a very limiting picture of gay potential.

Ask yourself, "If I am more than my cock size, what others think of me, and my ability or inability to buy things, then what am I?" Answer it your own way. But take comfort in knowing that to be an accepted and loved gay man, you do not have to subscribe to these values. You are already so much more. And to those who have an investment in those values, may you find the question provocative.

I began each message with "Hey gay brother" to remind us of an alternative value set based not on looking the right way, fucking the right way, and buying the right stuff. Brotherhood comes when we set aside those things, come together, and let ourselves be seen as we actually are. That can be a difficult mind-shift for gay men, myself included, raised in a society that demands we hide ourselves to gain acceptance. But the reward is a powerful and genuine sense of community. May we all help each other to create brotherhood and realize our full potential as strong, proud, and loving gay men.

Andrew Fratriss
San Francisco

A Castro soap opera

All of the controversy surrounding Les Natali and Greg Bronstein is just so much soap opera ["Detour to reopen in August; remodel of The Patio space progresses," July 17]. Get real. These men are out to make as much money out of view as fast as they can. As long as you keep giving it to them, they will prosper.

Just look at the people standing in line, eager to pay a \$2 cover charge to get into an over-hyped bar. They are not people from the neighborhood. Look at the crew standing in front of Badlands, blocking the sidewalk. (When will the police start enforcing the law and keep the sidewalk clear?)

Badlands has become a magnet for every misfit, degenerate, drugged out wannabe searching for a place to sleep at night.

Dan Cummings
San Francisco

Two who deserve each other

Having recently returned from a long vacation, I was not surprised to find in letters to the editor, complaints about Les Natali and Greg Bronstein.

If ever two people deserve each other, they do. The new Badlands has served only to reinforce the negativity inherent in gay night life. I, like everyone else, awaited the new opening of the Badlands as a welcome addition to a neighborhood that had not changed much in a decade. I was happy to see a new vibrant atmosphere. Over the course of time, being offered sex for drugs, drugs for sex, my jacket and wallets stolen, and many fights, I decided never to patronize Badlands again.

The Bar on Castro never became a place I wanted to spend time. When Bronstein opened Lalos in the old Leticia's, I hoped it would be fun. Pouring \$2 margaritas down the throats of young men, and then turning them loose on Sunday afternoons, however, has done our neighborhood a great disservice.

Remember the alternatives. We have the revamped Moby Dick, the old standby Midnight Sun, even try the Twin Peaks.

Larry Atwater
San Francisco

Book review off base

I was stunned by Tavo Amador's sniping review of Nan Boyd's groundbreaking book *Wide Open Town: A History of Queer San Francisco to 1965* ["The bad old days," August 8]. Boyd's book topped my summer reading list and has changed forever how I think of our city.

I won't quibble point-by-point with your reviewer, but let me clarify one thing. The author's clear aim was to answer in a nuanced and well-researched way the question many of us have asked for a long time: "How did San Francisco get to be the gay city in the

United States." I've read many authors, historians, and sociologists on this topic. None has answered the question as fully and completely as Boyd. Her research is amazing, meticulously detailed, and insightfully analyzed. She uncovers significant forces contributing to San Francisco's liberal political climate that I've never before seen articulated – and she shatters some precious myths about pre-Stonewall organizing in the city and highlights the activism and voices of bar people and working-class queers. The book offers a wonderful journey through a roller-coaster period in queer history that has never before been so thoroughly documented.

This book is a treasure. If you want to understand our contemporary queer city – from the reasons gay community centers have always struggled to survive in this city to tensions between large, bureaucratized AIDS organizations and grassroots AIDS charities to the reasons the queer press has evolved as it has in this city – this book will blow your mind.

Eric Rofes
San Francisco

Bible lesson

"Let me not to the domestic partnership of two minds admit impediments."

The Talmud reminds us that for some centuries there was a dispute about whether certain books really belonged in the Bible; among them, The Song of Songs, Ezekiel, and Ecclesiastes. One vexing section of the latter is in chapter four, where it advocates two men marrying each other rather than living alone. It's curious this isn't cited more often in the current debate.

"Then I returned and saw vanity under the sun. There is one that is alone, and he hath not a second; yea, he hath neither son and brother; yet is there no end of all his labor, neither is his eye satisfied with riches; for whom then do I labor and bereave my soul of pleasure?" This also is vanity; yea, it is a grievous business. Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labor. For if one fall, the one will lift up his fellow; but woe to him that is alone when he falleth, and hath not another to lift him up. Again, if the two lie together, then they have warmth; but how can one be warm alone? And if a man prevail against him that is alone, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken." Ecclesiastes 4: 7-12

The commentary in the Soncino edition notes that although both Rashi and Ibn Ezra assume this refers to the cohabitation of man and wife, the text is explicitly masculine. It's self-evident the third strand of the chord refers to the Deity. And the commentary concludes: "The Talmud has an anecdote of a man who fell asleep for seventy years and on waking found himself solitary and unknown. In desperation he cried to God, 'Either give me companionship or death.'" Call it marriage or the sacrament of companionship, call it the tie that binds or a ball and chain, but don't say it isn't in the Bible. If you do, you're awfully naughty and you're going to hell with the popes.

David John Pini
San Francisco

Loews called on flyers

[The following was sent to John McCauley, vice president of marketing of Loews Cineplex Theatres.]

I represent District 8 (Castro, Noe Valley, Glen Park) on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

On Saturday, August 16, hundreds of cars in the Castro were illegally "flyered" with notices for your "Movies in Motion" event August 16-17. First, I want to advise you that your actions were illegal under SF Public Works Code, Article 5.7.

It is very troubling to me that your agents acted with total disregard for the laws of our city and the cleanliness of our neighborhood. There were hundreds of flyers blowing throughout the streets and littering people's automobiles.

Because of your presence at Sony Metreon, Loews Cineplex is a visible corporate citizen. It is, therefore, especially disappointing that these actions occurred to promote your "Movies in Motion" event with Lever2000 at the Metreon.

Rather than dump flyers, you could demonstrate legitimate interest in reaching our community by advertising in our community newspapers. I can certainly provide you with contact information for the future.

I received several complaints about the litter you generated and suggest that your organization should make a contribution to our neighborhood organization, the Eureka Valley Promotion Association, for their programs to beautify the Castro. Most recently EVPA dedicated Pink Triangle Park that transformed a bleak patch of land into a beautiful memorial to gays and lesbians lost in the Holocaust.

I hope you will advise me of your actions in response to this incident and that you will ensure that your agents act responsibly in promoting future events.

Bevan Dufty, Member
San Francisco Board of Supervisors

POLITICS

Judge warns he may postpone recall vote

by Wayne Friday

As a federal judge warned last week that he may postpone California's October 7 recall election over voting rights questions, Governor **Gray Davis's** approval numbers continued to drop, Lieutenant Governor **Cruz Bustamante** accused the Davis camp of trying to undermine his candidacy, and Republican **Bill Simon**, who lost the election to Davis last November, baited actor **Arnold Schwarzenegger**, the new Golden Boy of Republican politics, demanding to know where the musclemen-turned-politico stands on the issues facing the state.

U.S. District Judge **Jeremy Fogel** acted last Friday after two civil rights groups argued that the hurry-up October 7 election doesn't give the Justice Department enough time to approve required changes in the



Our Man Friday

voting process. Under the 1965 Voting Rights Act, the federal government must approve changes in four California counties with a history of low voter participation. The cases argued last week focused on Monterey County, which plans fewer polling places and fewer Spanish-speaking poll workers for the election. Although Fogel's decision directly affects only Monterey County, the entire election is at stake because the state cannot have an election without all counties participating. Fogel scheduled another hearing for August 29 and strongly suggested he may delay the election if federal approval hasn't happened by then.

In the meantime, the judge ordered Monterey County not to send out about 200 ballots to registered voters overseas. Accordingly, **Thomas Saenz**, attorney for one of the civil rights groups, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, said even the delay in mailing overseas votes could force postponement of the election if overseas voters can't return their ballots by October 7.

While many legal analysts doubt that Fogel will actually postpone the recall election when he rules next week, the California attorney general's office and Monterey County officials conceded that without federal approval the entire special election, including two voter initiatives on the ballot, would have to be postponed, perhaps until the March 2004 scheduled primary.

Coincidentally, a delay in the election could actually help incumbent Davis, whose approval ratings have continued to drop statewide according to the latest nonpartisan Field Poll that showed momentum was continuing to build for the governor's removal. The latest Field Poll found that 58 percent of likely California voters want Davis out of office, up from 51 percent last month. The poll, based on telephone interviews with 448 likely voters, was conducted August 10-13 and had a margin of error of plus or minus 4.1 percentage points.

After Arnold Schwarzenegger surprised nearly everyone by announcing on NBC's *Tonight Show*

that he would be a candidate for governor, the actor has become somewhat of a recluse, apparently pursuing the Brentwood tactic by staying out of the limelight and issuing daily press briefings and campaign additions. The surprising announcement placed Schwarzenegger immediately in world headlines, making him the clear early front-runner to replace Davis, but a Field Poll released this past weekend showed Schwarzenegger and Bustamante, a Democrat, in a virtual dead heat, with Bustamante holding a slight lead (25 percent to 22 percent). GOP state Senator **Tom McClintock** (R-Thousand Oaks),

was third in the latest field poll (9 percent) with businessman **Bill Simon** placing fourth (8 percent). Former Major League Baseball Commissioner **Peter Ueberroth**, a Republican, fell in at fifth place (5 percent) in the 135-candidate field.

Simon, who came within 5 percentage points of unseating Davis last November, took to the airwaves this past week, attacking both Davis and Schwarzenegger, demanding to know where the actor-turned-politician stands on the issues. "What we need to do is focus on the message; where does Mr. Schwarzenegger stand on the issues? We don't even know," Simon declared.

Campaign handlers clearly intend to keep Schwarzenegger out of sight and away from the press as long as possible, but Simon and others, such as **Arianna Huffington**, an independent, seemed intent on not letting that tactic succeed. While downplaying a report in the *Los Angeles Times* that she only paid \$771 in federal income taxes over the last two years, Huffington declared, "Arnold Schwarzenegger is a Bush Republican and basically, it is laughable for Bush Republicans in this campaign to be attacking Gray Davis for fiscal irresponsibility while turning a blind eye to the orgy of fiscal irresponsibility going on in Washington."

The Schwarzenegger campaign has gotten a taste of how rough and tumble California politics can be. Schwarzenegger's camp had barely gotten out the word that billionaire investor **Warren Buffett**, a Democrat, had taken a highly-touted post as "senior financial and economic adviser" to the campaign before Buffett gave an interview to the *Wall Street Journal* in which he suggested that California's property taxes were too low. Proposition 13, which limits property tax hikes to no more than 2 percent, is considered politically untouchable in California and Buffett's comments immediately sent the Schwarzenegger camp scrambling for damage control. Simon jumped on the Buffett interview and called on Schwarzenegger to renounce the billionaire's suggestion that the state's property taxes should be increased.

Meanwhile, reports continued that both Simon and McClintock were continuing to come under pressure by national Republican operatives, reportedly led by

White House guru **Karl Rove**, to drop out of the race so that Republican voters in the state could coalesce around Schwarzenegger, the Republican most feel has the best chance of taking over the statehouse for their party.

On the Democratic side, Bustamante maintains he is running a "No on the recall, Yes on Bustamante" campaign. State Republican Party press secretary **Mike Wintemute** tried a new tactic, referring to Bustamante as part of "the Davis-Bustamante team," clearly hoping to tie Bustamante to the unpopular governor. That strategy, however, does not address a problem the Republicans have of their own. While California Democrats are seemingly settling into a plan to urge Californians to vote no on the recall but yes on Bustamante as a backup candidate, the Republicans are missing half the equation in that the united GOP message stops with merely a yes on the recall of Davis. Clearly, the Democrats have a prominent candidate on the replacement part of the ballot in the form of Bustamante while Republicans still face the problem of having four to choose from.

In addition, the attempt to link Bustamante and Davis together could backfire for Republicans since California Democrats appeared ready to counter with what they call the "Wilson-Schwarzenegger Prop 187 Team." Former Governor **Pete Wilson** is taking a leading role in the Schwarzenegger campaign and the actor has already hired many of Wilson's former consultants and aides. Schwarzenegger is on record as having voted for Proposition 187 in 1994, a measure which sought to deny state benefits to illegal immigrants, and one that Wilson championed. The measure was approved but later struck down by the courts; Wilson's tough campaigning to pass Proposition 187 caused irreparable political harm between the GOP and the state's growing Latino population, leaving him with political baggage he still carries.

Had enough of this recall madness for one week? So have I, but one last thing: look for the White House to continue to pressure Simon and McClintock to drop out within the next month. It appears more and more likely that Davis cannot win the first part of the ballot, and unless the California Republicans can coalesce around Schwarzenegger, it could very well be Bustamante replacing the embattled Davis. Could it be "hasta la vista, Arnold?" Like I said before, this is California, land of the recall, home of the crazy, and the state that practices its politics with a loose screw.

Politics and people

Last week was a particularly good one for district attorney candidate **Kamala Harris**; she was endorsed by the S.F. Deputy Sheriff's Association, the SFPD Officers for Justice, and the SFPD Latino Peace Officers. Additionally, incumbent **Terence Hallinan** failed to garner the expected endorsement of the San Francisco County Democratic Party despite having the strong support of the party chairperson (it might take more than **Woody Harrelson** to save the day for Kayo this time

page 19 ►

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Stupid media tricks

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

It's time for me to gripe about the media again.

I sometimes feel as if I complain about the media's coverage of transgender stories like some sort of broken record, going on and on about the same issues time and again. Unfortunately, these same issues keep coming up.

Transgender issues are covered at a staggering rate in this era of 24-hour news stations and Web media, and hardly a day goes by where some transgender-themed news story won't pass my eyes. One day last week I received three stories on a transgender divorce case, five articles on a trial over trans bathroom rights, two reports of anti-transgender murders, two articles on the Gwen Araujo murder case, and several others.

Most weren't bad, though I could point to things I disliked in each story. I don't want to spend my time playing "PC cop" when I slog through all this material, so I simply shrug off a large amount. I will say this much, though: most of these stories fell into the same traps.

Recently, I was interviewed as part of a story for a Los Angeles television station. For their "B" roll — those establishing shots of a person walking into a room or doing some other meaningless task — they asked me if I would go to the bathroom and apply my lipstick.

They seemed genuinely surprised when I declined, explaining that such an image was not only insulting, but also overused in transgender coverage. Apparently, they seemed to think they'd stumbled on a unique image.

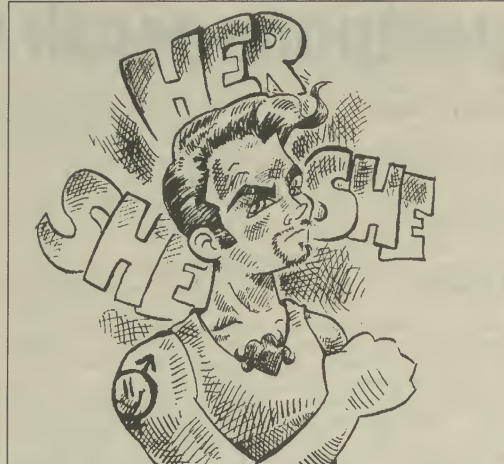
With that in mind, I offer you a list of dumb things the media does when covering transgender stories.

First off, a biggie: Unnecessary use of birth names.

When Buddy Hackett and Bob Hope died, I did not see a single article that referred to either man as Leslie "Bob" Hope or Lenny "Buddy Hackett" Hacker. In what ways are their stories different from Gwen Araujo, who is still routinely called by her birth name — and with "Gwen" in quotes?

The same could be said about the use of pronouns. I've seen examples where post-operative transsexuals, who are otherwise legally and socially a member of their preferred gender, are referred to in the media by the pronouns applied to them at birth. Why does the media call a man "she" simply because he was once called such?

Maybe this is to somehow show what the transgender person



Christine Smith

"really" is, as so many stories seem to paint a transgender person as a deceptive person. Rather than seeing one's gender presentation as a natural outgrowth of their self-identity, it is viewed as some sort of facade hiding the real person beneath.

The media tends to spend much time focusing on genitalia rather than one's self-identity, making the same mistake doctors do when delivering a baby: making a blanket assumption that gender is based solely on genitals.

I can't think of any stories in recent days about the genital status of California's various gubernatorial candidates — but if a transgender person was running for office, what was or wasn't in their pants would automatically be vital information.

This brings up another issue. Transgender people sometimes end up in the news for reasons completely outside of their gender, yet the issue still ends up being brought up. Would you discuss the race of a person in an article devoid of race-specific news, or would you talk about a person's religion in an article not dealing with religion? If not, then why discuss if a person is transgender in an story that doesn't address the topic?

This brings me back to the experience I shared above. If a non-transgender woman were being interviewed, she wouldn't likely be filmed while putting on her make-up. The image would have been a cheap stereotype, something out of date by the 1970s. Because I am a transgender woman this image becomes the only thing I can be seen as: a stereotype of femininity.

The opposite also applies. Just ask any female-to-male who has been filmed, and find out how many of them were asked to pose

for images of them shaving, or putting on a tie.

That is about the only time one might see an FTM in most coverage. The straight media is enchanted with showing male-to-females, so much so that transgender men are almost invisible in news coverage. In fact, the most common portrayal of transgender life one might find is of a male-to-female sex worker.

Many of us may well be sex workers, but if you believed all you saw in the media, any transgender woman who wasn't turning tricks would be an absolute aberration.

There is a reason for this, and it leads to my last point. In this era of so much media coming in, these various news outlets know they need to have a "hook" to bring in the eyes and ears they so desperately seek. Because of this, stories of transgender people — no matter how mundane — are "teased" with terms like "shocking" or "outrageous" with the expertise of a side-show Barker.

Even the language used by some in the media sounds like it came from the world of the carney. "He/she" or "chick with a dick" come to mind. It's one thing if the person you are interviewing identifies as a "she-male," and quite another to use it as a blanket statement.

Of course, most of these can be boiled down to one thing: respect. If the media would choose to show a little of that when covering transgender stories, then such a laundry list would be irrelevant.

Until that happens, I'll probably be right here, griping about it. ▼

Gwen Smith is not running for office, so she does not need to disclose her genital status. You can find her on the web at www.gwensmith.com.

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The Harvey Milk School muddle

by Dale Carpenter

What to do about New York City's Harvey Milk School for gay students? Now that a lawsuit has been filed against public funding for the high school, it's time to ask anew whether it's a good way to combat the pervasive problem of antigay harassment in public schools.

The Harvey Milk School was started in 1984 by the Hetrick-Martin Institute, a private, nonprofit organization devoted to helping gay youth. HMS is now a four-year, fully accredited high school created, in the words of its Web site, "to offer an alternative educational program for LGBTQ youth that often find it difficult or impossible to attend their home schools due to continuous abuse and harassment."

HMS boasts a 90 percent graduation rate and a 60 percent college acceptance rate, both far higher than the numbers for public high schools. This is probably because of its low student-teacher ratio and the numerous ways it offers special help to its students, like tutoring, employment training and placement, and after-school activities.

It now has only about 50 kids. But a recent \$3.2 million grant from the city will allow HMS to expand and accommodate three times that number. This means substantial public money will go to a school organized around sexual identity.

From the social right come the usual and false charges of pedophilia and "indoctrination." More plausibly, social conservatives have criticized HMS as another example of special rights for gays. Culture and Family Institute director Bob Knight derides it as "an elite institution."

The exceptional performance of HMS students and the special services they get, a source of great pride to the school, do indeed sharply contrast with the attention given one million poorer-performing students in New York's public schools. The public money spent on HMS could go to other needs, like getting better school teachers.

Yet special problems call for special solutions. Social conservatives never seem to acknowledge the hard fact that gay kids are subjected to exceptional amounts of taunting and bullying from their peers. That environment can make it very difficult, under ex-

treme circumstances impossible, to learn. HMS was understandably created as a response to this reality. The question is whether it is the right response.

Then there's the objection that HMS segregates, effectively discriminating against straight minority youths who attend lesser public schools. Democratic state Senator Ruben Diaz has filed a lawsuit claiming just that. "I am opposing segregation in any shape, type, or form," Diaz told the *New York Times*.

This criticism is overwrought. Segregation is a loaded word, conjuring up images of water cannons, attack dogs, and separate schools for black people. The word just doesn't apply here.

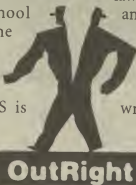
HMS responds to the discrimination charge by saying it doesn't bar straight kids. That's disingenuous. Even HMS acknowledges its purpose is to help gay kids. The exclusion of straights may not be a formal policy, but it is a fact. Is it wrong?

To queer separatists, this may not seem like much of a criticism. But separating gay students from straight students may do both groups more harm than good, teaching them that the way to deal with the tension arising from diversity in a plural society is to avoid it.

Most fundamentally, HMS is simply not an effective response to antigay abuse. Hetrick-Martin estimates there are about 100,000 gay students in New York. Shipping 150 of them off somewhere is no solution. School system administrators may feel better, but they have done nothing to fight the problem. We've just let them off the hook.

The problem needs to be addressed systematically within the schools, perhaps by greater pedagogical emphasis on sensitivity, awareness, and tolerance, and perhaps by greater levels of security. And if anyone should be sent away, it's the bullies.

It's also likely the 150 or so who attend HMS will be among the most self-motivated and self-aware of the gay students, with supportive parents or guardians who, after all, must sign off on their kids' attendance. The worst abuse will be visited on those thousands of gay kids left behind who have nobody to support them, not even their parents, and can't speak to anyone about the harassment, much less apply to attend an explicitly gay school. These invisible kids need the most help, but they get nothing from the existence of HMS.



OutRight

If public funding for HMS were part of a general effort to foster healthy competition with public schools, as through a voucher program, these concerns about it might be offset by some gain. But HMS is not that, since liberal school system bureaucrats would never support such a reform.

Public funding would also be justifiable to support a temporary learning shelter for kids who are truly in psychological or physical danger that cannot be controlled by other means. But an HMS applicant can be admitted even if she's suffered no harassment and simply wants the special attention she'll get at the school. There's no principled way to use tax dollars to subsidize her desire for a superior education, but leave out other similarly ambitious students.

HMS has a right to exist as a private high school, like any other private high school. But, except as a temporary refuge for gay kids in immediate danger, it isn't an answer. And as well-intentioned as the school is, public money would be better spent on the harassment problem within the public schools themselves. ▼

Dale Carpenter is a law professor. Some of his past columns can be read at www.indiegayforum.com. He can be reached at OutRight@aol.com.

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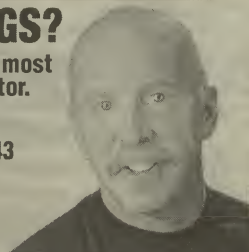
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The Planning Council usually meets the fourth Monday of each month from 4:30 to 7:30 P.M. in the Mayor's Conference Room (Room 201), San Francisco City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett (on Van Ness Avenue, between Grove and McAllister Streets.)

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Club helps connect men in prime of their lives

by Matthew S. Bajko

In a world where youth is celebrated, the men of San Francisco's Prime Timers are proof that youthfulness is ageless.

Just like gay and bisexual men in their teens and 20s, the men of Prime Timers seek out their peers with whom to socialize and enjoy life. They just happen to be mostly in their 50s, 60s, and 70s.

Hal Seip, a member of the group for the past 23 years and its current secretary, said he keeps coming back especially for “the camaraderie of men my own age.”

Since 1973, the members of the club have helped older gay and bisexual men break out of the isolation that many seniors experience as they age. This past weekend more than 60 men gathered at the Holiday Inn on Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco to celebrate the group's 30th anniversary.

“In 1973, when Prime Timers was founded, homophobia was very much a factor of life. Having been through that, many people—many mature people—remain in the closet. This gives them a place, since they are associating with their peers, where they can relax and be themselves,” said Arthur Hurwith, a 20-year member of the club and its treasurer. “This club provides a place where people can be relaxed, let their hair down and be themselves.”

Last Sunday's celebration also marked the 1-year birthday for the club's new name. Originally called the G40+ Club, the group changed its name last year after its original founder, Jordan Lee, stepped down.

The club has been a part of Prime Timers World Wide for several years. The international organization has more than 50 chapters in the United States, Canada, Europe, and Australia. Through annual conventions and invitations to meet other clubs, the members are afforded an opportunity to meet men the world over.

While the club's name pertains mostly to men older than 40, the organization is open to anyone at least 21 years of age. Although the group's being open to “younger men who admire mature men” can



San Francisco Prime Timers from left: Warren van Eck, president; Carlos Delgado, vice president; John McCoy, director; Arthur Hurwith, treasurer; and Hal Seip, secretary.

sound like an offshoot of NAMBLA, the North American Man Boy Love Association, Prime Timers is a vastly different organization.

“There is no relationship whatsoever with NAMBLA. We are a social group where people can meet their peers,” said Hurwith.

Love connections have grown out of friendships formed through the club. Hurwith and Warren van Eck met at Prime Timers and have been partners for 13 years.

Currently, the youngest members of San Francisco's chapter are in their 30s, said Hurwith. The longtime members of the group want to see more younger men join, not only to boost the membership ranks, but to ensure the longevity of the club.

“We are all getting a little older,” joked Seip.

“We want to try to talk younger guys into coming aboard so our old guys can sit back and watch them run the show,” said van Eck, the group's president for the last year.

The group meets for two hours twice a month to socialize and to listen to invited speakers ranging on topics from politics and social issues to art and health. Members also fill out their interests—including dining out, going to movies, art shows, the opera, travel, and exercise—when they join. In that way, members can meet men with similar interests and get together outside the confines of the meetings.

“My life has changed from the standpoint that I have a social group,” said Vice President Carlos Delgado of the impact the group has had.

The club, which helps to sponsor the annual Geezer's Ball around Pride, is set to reach 200 members by the end of this year, up from 108 a year ago. Currently, it is looking for more men to join its board, which has about five open seats.

“I would love to have more members and a broader outlook on what we are trying to accomplish,” said van Eck.

One goal for Prime Timers is to shine a spotlight on the needs and problems of maturing gay and bisexual men. While it professes not to be a political organization and does not endorse candidates, it is emerging as a leading force in ensuring the effects of aging are addressed by the gay community.

Thanking his board and members for allowing him to be president this past year, van Eck said he is proud of the fact the group has survived to become 30 years old.

“I hope somewhere I have given you a little spark of what Prime Timers are. We can be a force in this community,” he said.

The Prime Timers meet from 2 to 4 p.m. on the first and third Sunday of each month at the First Unitarian Universalist Church, 1187 Franklin Street, at Geary. Membership currently costs \$3 for a year. For more information, call (415) 648-8678. ▽

Chorus names new director, holds auditions

by Matthew S. Bajko

As the Oakland East Bay Gay Men's Chorus gears up to hold auditions for new members, the chorale group announced it had hired Michael T. Carlson as its new artistic director.

Carlson previously served two years as artistic director and conductor of the Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco.

“We're very excited to have Michael join us,” said chorus president Scott Stewart. “He did a great job with the Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco, and we feel really fortunate that he is able to share his talents with us.”

Carlson will lead the East Bay chorus into its fourth full year of singing for East Bay audiences.

“The chorus shows enormous potential to serve its community in new ways,” said Carlson. “It has already taken some great steps to-



Michael T. Carlson

ward establishing a musical tradition that reflects the East Bay's diversity, and I look forward to building on that foundation. We're going to work hard, and we're going to have a lot of fun.”

His first task is to help select

music for the group's holiday concerts, scheduled for December 13 and 14.

“Some pieces will focus on what it means to be a gay person celebrating holidays with family, others on what holiday traditions are like in other parts of the world,” Carlson said.

Before working with the Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco, Carlson was a music instructor at Rancho High School in Las Vegas, Nevada, and musical director and liturgist for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Reno, Nevada.

The Oakland East Bay Gay Men's Chorus is auditioning for new members Tuesday, August 26 and Tuesday, September 2 from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Auditions both nights will be held at First Congregational Church of Oakland, 2501 Harrison Street (at 27th Street).

To schedule an audition, call (800) 706-2389 or e-mail info@oebgmc.org. ▽

IGLAdly!

Tsunami hosts world's biggest gay swim meet

by Jim Provenzano

It's not often that hundreds of lesbian and gay swimmers meet for a world competition; rarer still, divers, water polo players, and drag queens. But that's the IGLA tradition, and this year more than a thousand aquatic jocks will compete.

This year's 13th edition of the International Gay and Lesbian Aquatics Championships, hosted by San Francisco Tsunami Swim Club and Tsunami Polo, will fill Stanford University's three pools Friday through Sunday (August 22-24), for a weekend full of record-breaking victories, personal bests, and fabulous aquatic fun.

But in addition to the fun and games, IGLA 2003 is about serious swimming.

With strong local participation, co-chair Joe Healy said, "We have nearly 200 participants representing 17 teams from the greater Northern California region, from Sacramento to Monterey."

Seventy-eight teams from 20 states and 12 countries will converge on the world-class Avery Aquatic Center.

"We've also got a wide range of people - old and young, straight and gay," said Healy. The oldest participant is 89 years old; the youngest only 19.

IGLArtful

As Greg Louganis struggled with being the greatest (albeit closeted) diver in the world at the 1984 Olympics, Adam Gutierrez was a mere 1-year-old.

Jump to May 2001 at a meet between California High and Granada High varsity divers. Gutierrez, then a senior from Monte Vista, took first place with a score of 393.45.

After about eight months studying dance, "I did a little time at the San Francisco Ballet School," Gutierrez said, he didn't feel like devoting his life to it. He took some time off to focus on school, and was drawn to diving.

The Danville resident practiced with the high school team, but only for the last part of the year. His coach recommended he train with Phil Tonne, a former coach of the U.S. diving team.

After traveling to a few competitions, Gutierrez took a year off to study in Spain. In July 2002, he started training seriously with Tonne and coach Danielle Leach.

Currently enrolled as a double major in linguistics and language studies at the University of Cali-

fornia, Santa Cruz, he's on its Division 3 team.

"It's not very serious," he said. "But right now I'm just into springboard."

The higher and more demanding platform diving is, he said, "a completely different realm, and a completely different rhythm. I took a couple of spills trying to do things."

Having started at 16, Gutierrez does admit there is a youth factor. "That holds true for any sports, like gymnastics and diving."

Along with the occasional-gymnastics class, "just to fool around," his training regimen includes two to three hours of diving most days, and early morning team gym workouts a few times a week.

"It keeps a sense of discipline."

In seeking perfection, he noted that divers "have an incredibly abnormal body awareness. I definitely feel that ballet helped, even playing basketball. One thing that set me back in diving was that my feet turn out. I've made a conscious effort not to do that."

About his participation at IGLA, Gutierrez is looking forward to a different - and gay-friendly - sports environment. Does being the youngest out athlete at a gay tournament make a difference?

"Not really," he said. "Coming from a supportive family, it's not to make a statement, because I've grown up in the Bay Area."

Gutierrez doesn't see the pressures of the closet that Louganis experienced decades ago.

"I don't know if it's the year we're in, but it's leaning away from the original stigma," he said. "It's becoming more natural to blend in."

IGLeonardo

Leonardo Torres will be flying in from Brookline, Massachusetts. He started swimming in his second year at Brookline High School.

"Within two weeks of swimming, I didn't like swimming. So I tried out for the diving team, but to my coach's surprise, I couldn't even dive off the side of the pool!"

His coach made a deal with him that he would swim for nearly two hours, but could dive for only 15 minutes.

As his skills improved, he went from swimming to diving. Having only competed at local gay swim meets that didn't include diving, he's looking forward to the IGLA meet.

His preferred dives are a for-

ward 2 double in a pike position on one-meter. On three-meter, the forward 2 1/2 in a pike position is his preference.

One of only nine divers, Berkeley's Derek Douglas said their competition may be "a bit under-represented. We knew in Australia there'd be a conflict with the U.S. diving meet in Hawaii. We lost four good divers to that meet."

Yet Douglas said he feels committed to diving this weekend, despite having not trained as much as he'd like.

A silver medalist in the three-meter, and a bronze medalist on platform at Sydney's Gay Games, Douglas will be competing in one- and three-meter, and possibly in synchronized diving with visiting Australian Stephen Shaw in the 30-39 age group.

The timing of Manchester's Eurogames kept some IGLA participants overseas this weekend. Others are off to Hawaii, where another diving competition will take place.

Igloch ness

A doctor of acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine, Seattle's David Dawson started diving in high school.

"I had a crush on a kid in my French class who played water polo," he said. "When swim season came around, the coach asked if anyone wanted to try diving. Six weeks after my first competition, I won the regional champi-



Record holder Jim Ballard, one of over 1,000 participants at IGLA 2003.

onships."

Through his undergraduate years, Dawson said, "Diving became one of my sole ego boosts, and I really focused on it. I transferred a couple times, to get to work with better coaches."

He ended up diving at Indiana University, for coach Hobie Billingsley, "one of the most important figures in diving, and a phenomenal coach," said Dawson. Indiana University was the #1-ranked diving school in the nation while Dawson was there.

While being gay may not be an issue for some, for Dawson, it had a significant impact.

About halfway through my undergrad years, I was diving with a club in California, and had a crush on one of the other divers (crushes apparently played a big

part in my aquatic history!). We never got past the flirting stage, really. But his mom panicked, and made a big scene about it, outing me to my coach and my parents.

"This was the late 1970s, and there wasn't a whole lot of understanding floating around." Moving back east to IU, he ended up gradually going back into the closet, and marrying.

"It wasn't until my mid-30s that I actually fully accepted myself and came out, while living in Scotland - which made it easier, in some ways. I was able to be myself, without fear of judgment. My family was deeply affirming and supportive."

While in Scotland, he not only became the Scottish 1-meter champion, but also set a national

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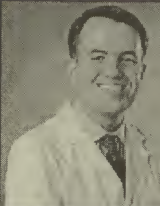
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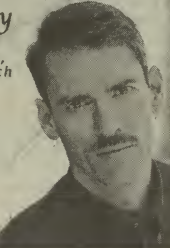
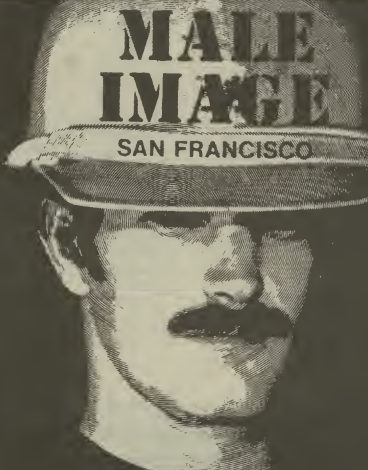
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Davis DP bill

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bly in two weeks. AB205 initially passed the full Assembly on a 41-32 vote – the bare minimum of votes required for passage – in June.

In his statement, Davis commended Goldberg and members of the Lesbian and Gay Caucus for "their leadership and for working with my office to ensure the bill is cost-neutral."

Davis has signed various gay bills since becoming governor, including the bill authored by former Assemblywoman Carole Migden that created the statewide domestic partner registry. Earlier this month, Davis signed Leno's AB196 that codifies the definition of gender within the Fair Employment and Housing Act to include nondiscrimination protections on the basis of real or perceived gender identity.

In a conference call with reporters on Saturday, August 16, gay staffers Daniel Zingale, Davis's deputy chief of staff, and Eric Bauman, a Davis aide who's on leave from his position to work for Californians Against the Costly Recall, said Davis decided to sign the bill as a matter of fairness. In a statement, Davis said, "The day I took the oath of office as governor I said the era of wedge-issue politics in California was over. In that spirit, I intend to sign AB205 to continue the progress we've made toward ensuring fairness for all Californians."

In his statement, Davis said the Office of Legislative Counsel has determined that AB205 does not violate Proposition 22, which voters approved in 2000 and states that marriage is defined as a union between a man and a woman.

"This is a huge step for California," Bauman said.

Geoffrey Kors, executive director of Equality California, also participated in the conference call and emphasized that AB205 is not gay marriage.

"The message is that the state treat couples equally," Kors said.

But already, antigay conservatives are alarmed over AB205, and recent polls have shown a backlash against gay marriage since the U.S. Supreme Court in June overturned state sodomy laws. An Associated Press poll released Monday shows 52 percent in favor of a law banning gay marriage, while 41 percent oppose such a law. The poll, conducted by ICR-International Communications Research Media, surveyed 1,028 adults between August 8-12 and has an error margin of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Randy Thomasson, executive director of Campaign for California's Families, called AB205 "gay marriage by another name," in a *San Francisco Chronicle* story.

Zingale acknowledged the recent polls.

"The governor is aware of those polls," Zingale said, referring to earlier polls showing a backlash against gays, "but his determination to equal treatment is not de-

Leno asks, 'Where's Arnold on LGBT issues?'

by Cynthia Laird

With less than 50 days until the October 7 recall election, openly gay Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) on Tuesday, August 19 asked candidate Arnold Schwarzenegger to state his positions on a number of LGBT issues.

"Most of the leading candidates for governor have clearly defined their positions on legislation and issues affecting the LGBT community," Leno stated in a letter to the actor-turned-gubernatorial candidate. "Since you have not, we are urging you to do so immediately."

Governor Gray Davis is facing a historic recall election in which voters will be asked two questions. The first is a yes or no vote on the recall. The second part of the ballot lists the 135 candidates who are running to succeed Davis, should the recall pass. While Davis must win a majority of votes on the "no" part of the recall ballot to keep his job, if he loses, the replacement candidate with the most votes will take office as soon as the election results are certified.

Leno's letter asked Schwarzenegger whether he supports several pieces of legislation that Davis has signed into law since becoming governor in 1999:

- AB26 (1999), which created the statewide domestic partner registry.

- AB537 (1999), which protects LGBT students from harassment in public schools.

- AB1001 (1999), which added sexual orientation to the Fair Employment and Housing Act.

- AB25 (2001), which added a dozen benefits to the domestic partner registry.

- AB196 (2003), which added gender as a protected category to FEHA.

"With only 49 days before Californians go to the polls," Leno wrote Tuesday, "it is time you share your stance on these issues and give the citizens of California the respect they deserve."

A call to Schwarzenegger's campaign was not returned at press time. ▼

termined by polls. In the end, he believes these are good issues. The antigay crowd has always opposed Davis."

"The governor's detractors like to paint him as not a leader. But the right wing is not going to make him put his tail between his legs and run," Bauman added.

Kors, however, pointed out that polling in California shows a "strong majority" supports legislation like AB205.

"The majority of Californians believe in treating people equally," Kors said.

"Here's the political reality – domestic partnership is a concept people accept," said Bauman. "As you move closer up the chain to gay marriage, the poll numbers fall off."

Bauman said that from the start, the recall campaign has had an antigay focus. Conservative Congressman Darrell Issa (R-Vista) spent millions of his own money gathering signatures for the recall, but dropped out of the race to replace Davis once Republican actor Arnold Schwarzenegger entered the race on August 6. Issa campaigned strongly against Proposition 22 in 2000. This week, *Los Angeles Times* columnist Patt Morrison wrote that Rob Stutzman, the campaign spokesman for Proposition 22, had joined Schwarzenegger's campaign team.

While Schwarzenegger has been repeatedly portrayed in the mainstream media as being gay-friendly, as of press time, the candidate has said nothing since entering the race about gay rights is-

sues.

Saturday, Zingale took a verbal swipe at Schwarzenegger. "Vague references to sexual liberation doesn't translate into law."

The bill

AB205 would apply to same-sex couples registered with the state. Kors said that some of the new rights and responsibilities to be granted include child custody and child support obligations, the right to make funeral arrangements, community property and spousal support, and mutual responsibility for debts. The bill also provides access to divorce court and death benefits for surviving partners of firefighters and police officers.

"I think the most changes are in family law," Zingale said. "It gets into the rights and responsibilities as they affect children, community property, and child support."

Marriage Equality California, which is dedicated to securing the freedom of same-sex couples to enter into legally recognized civil marriage, nonetheless was supportive of Davis's announcement of his intent to sign AB205.

"There are over 20,000 couples in California registered as domestic partners who are raising children, paying taxes, and deserve to be recognized under state law," said L.J. Carusone, co-executive director of MECA.

"Even though AB205 does not go far enough to grant same-sex couples full equality that only civil marriage can provide, it is a giant step forward," said Molly McKay, MECA co-executive director. ▼

Crime

◀ page 4

watched the suspect carry several tools from the container and place them into the back of a white van.

The suspect drove off east-bound on Elizabeth with his vehicle's lights off. A responding police cruiser spotted the vehicle and attempted to pull it over. The suspect sped up, traveling east on Elizabeth and south on Noe. With lights and siren activated, the

cruiser pursued the white Dodge Caravan. After a short while, the van pulled over, but instead of stopping, jumped the curb, then drove down the sidewalk in an attempt to elude officers. After driving a block down the sidewalk, the suspect suddenly lost control of the vehicle and crashed into a parked Honda. The suspect jumped from the van and started running west on Jersey Street. Officers pursued on foot and caught the suspected burglar, tackling him to the ground.

Inside the van, officers found several expensive tools, including a power generator, a concrete nail gun, an air wrench, and a rotor hammer. The suspect, 30, was taken to Mission Station and booked for burglary, possession of stolen property, reckless driving, hit and run, driving with a suspended license, and resisting arrest. Police believe the alleged thief may have been involved in the first theft as well, and are investigating ownership of the recovered equipment. ▼

Movie nights give center a starring role

by Matthew S. Bajko

On the last Wednesday of each month, one man and his love for movies is breathing some life into the LGBT Community Center.

Wayne Marshall Jones, a marriage and family therapist, helps run the center's monthly "Gay Matinee" program, where gay films and movies with a queer sensibility are screened for center members and the public at large.

"I am not the guy who brought movie night to the center, but the minute I heard about it, I jumped on the bandwagon," said Jones, who for two years hosted a weekly movie screening and discussion group at his home. "Some of us would like to see that group at the center but we haven't gotten that up and running yet."

Each month a group of volunteers, called the DVDiva Committee, selects two movies, with one shown at 4 and 8 p.m., the second screened once at 6 p.m. The selections vary, from newly released films like *Far From Heaven* to classics like *My Beautiful Laundrette* and cult favorite, *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*.

Popcorn is served up for free, and attendees can buy soda, water, or beer. For center members, who pay a yearly \$35 membership fee, the nights are free.

For the public, a donation of \$5 is asked, but Jones is quick to emphasize that no one is turned away due to lack of funds. He said a letter to the editor that ran in the *Bay Area Reporter* from a disgruntled movie night attendee who was told he had to pay was a misunderstanding.

"Just to be accurate, the official text of our admission policy is as follows: 'FREE ADMISSION for Center members. No one will be turned away for lack of funds, but guests are invited to become members (\$35) or make a donation (\$5 suggested),' said Jones.

Since the movie nights began in January, several people have become members of the center. And the movie nights have raised between \$75 to \$90 each month.

But Jones explained, "We emphasize friendly accessibility rather than heavy-handed fundraising."

While attendance at the screenings often varies – about 60 people showed up for July's screening – the movie nights do draw a diverse cross section of

the LGBT community to the center, from senior citizens to teenagers and 20-somethings. Most of the English-language movies are English captioned to be inclusive of the deaf and hard of hearing, which Jones pointed out is a feature unavailable in most commercial theaters.

In May, the movie nights added free childcare so gay parents could find some quiet time for themselves and enjoy a show. And in June, Jones and his movie buffs copresented a special program of shorts by South Asian GLBT filmmakers along with third-i-sf and TriKone.

"We hope to expand Movie Night and the Gay Matinee as demand and resources permit, and would like to include more lesbian-, bisexual-, transgender, and youth-focused programs, as well as more foreign-language films, documentaries, and the work of local filmmakers," said Jones. "While we usually show films that have already had a theatrical release, we are planning some 'preview' screenings of not-yet-in-distribution films."

For some, movie night is their first entree to the building, which opened in 2002 at 1800 Market Street.

"I was just curious. It sounded very fun and very interesting," said Michael Stokes, who decided to volunteer at the July screening after receiving an e-mail about the matinees.

His first event at the center, Stokes said after watching the early showing of that month's feature, *A Beautiful Thing*, that he would come back.

"It's a nice entertaining evening," he said. "I am alone and I met some nice people here. It is nice to come by yourself and have it be comfortable."

While the plastic seats can't compete with a movie theater's stadium seating or a living room couch, movie nights do offer a communal bonding experience and an inexpensive way to support the center.

"Movie Night is attracting a large percentage of people who have not become center members, and we aim to provide a positive, exciting, and fun experience of the center for starters," said Jones. "We encourage everybody to become a center member and/or volunteer their time and energy to support the center's work. And we believe that getting involved is the key to building community around what happens at the center."

Thom Lynch, the center's newly hired executive director,

said he sees programs like the movie nights as key to the building's future success. Moving away from just renting out the center's rooms, Lynch is instead placing more focus on developing original programming for the building that will draw more people inside.

"I want a lively center and movie nights help achieve that," said Lynch, who replaced ousted executive director Brian Cheu in June. "It helps people connect and meet."

The movie nights have also planted a seed in Lynch's thinking of how the center can support local filmmakers. In addition to screening Hollywood films, Lynch said he would like to create a series, perhaps called "Front and Center," where movies produced locally that still have yet to be picked up for distribution can be shown and the director can discuss his or her work afterward.

"The center can connect us with each other and our own culture," said Lynch, who welcomes anyone who wants to produce their own events at the center to pitch their idea to him.

"We can have 100 staff here who put together events but that is not really what I want to do," he said. "Instead, we can have one staff person work with 100 volunteers and help people put together what they love to do."

With Lynch's backing, Jones is already planning to move October's Gay Matinee to Halloween night, which falls on a Friday this year. The special screening will feature films by The Cockettes. Along with showing *Tricia's Wedding* and *Elevator Girls in Bondage*, the evening will also consist of a live cabaret act and a reunion of some of the original Cockettes.

Jones said he hopes others will begin to see the hidden potential of the center and plan their own events there for the community.

"It is our elephant. We have to feed it," said Jones, who is a founder of the center and a paid member. "I decided instead of sitting back and hitting it with potshots, I would make it a place I would be really proud of when I am gone."

This month's Gay Matinee falls on August 27 and features the Academy Award-winning *Chicago* at 4 and 8 p.m. and the indie hit *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* at 6 p.m.

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Researchers study prevention for HIVers

by Bob Roehr

Prevention for positives is one of the major HIV initiatives that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced last April to try and reduce the number of new infections. For those in care, their visits with physicians represents "considerable missed opportunities" to discuss prevention issues, said Stephen Morin, a researcher at the University of California, San Francisco, at the recent HIV prevention conference in Atlanta.

He documented that missed opportunity with exit interviews of 618 patients in nine different states at 16 public health clinics that received Ryan White funds. The interviews occurred immediately after they had seen their physician.

More than two-thirds of the patients were sexually active, and 20 percent of those "were concerned that they may have infected someone else with HIV in the last six months." About a quarter of the total group of patients said that at their last visit, someone at the clinic has spoken with them about safer sex, however, "only 6

percent indicated that they had any discussion of specific sexual activities." The questions tended to be asked at the initial visit but not later in treatment.

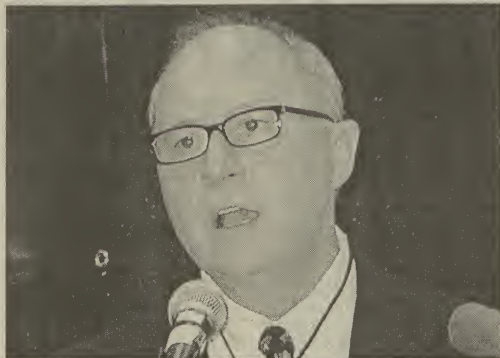
Interviews with clinic staffers at those same locations found that clinics with written procedures that included prevention counseling were twice as likely to have spoken with patients about those issues.

Morin found that common reasons given for not raising prevention issues in care were a lack of time, coupled with lack of compensation for those efforts. But also buried in there was unease on the part of physicians that they had not been trained in this area.

He concluded, "There is ample room for improvement in terms of risk assessment and intervention in these clinical settings ... You are going to have to change providers' behavior as well as client behavior." Both are going to have "to overcome their discomfort and unease in confronting sexual risk behavior."

"Time is not always the fundamental issue," he said. "Five minute interventions can have an impact."

Three years ago, when they began to see an increase in sexually transmitted diseases among their



UCSF researcher Steve Morin studied prevention for positives.

gay HIV patients, Denver public health physician Mark Thrun and his colleagues introduced a risk assessment guide, or checklist, as part of their regular primary care sessions with these patients. It should be used at least once a year with each patient, he said.

"We think it is the provider's responsibility to be asking what they are doing and reduce the risk of harming themselves" though possible reinfection with a second and possibly drug resistant strain of virus, "or transmitting HIV to other people."

Thrun said there are times "when I open a Pandora's box by asking if the guy has gone to the bathhouse" recently. Often patients are eager to talk about the risks they take. The principle difficulty is getting physicians to buy into the

process. The best way seems to be to link it to the risk of reinfection and the compounded difficulties of treating such patients.

"Medicine is primarily a heterosexual institution, and yet we see 85 percent gay men," said

Thrun. "Gay men don't use terminology such as receptive anal intercourse." [Heterosexual]

providers weren't even aware what 'top' and 'bottom' meant." They weren't culturally competent to work effectively with their patients. So he created a training program to cover those areas.

"It's time that providers own up to their responsibilities to ask their patients about risk-taking behavior, this should have been going on for years," said Thrun.

Deborah Parham, the federal administrator of the Ryan White program, said that beginning in the fall, they will fund 15 demonstration projects to identify a variety of approaches that might be used in physicians' offices to implement prevention for positives.

In a subsequent interview, she intimated that should these demonstration projects prove successful, the Ryan White programs might in the future authorize funding to cover the costs of such activities as a normal part of care. ▼

O'Neill moves to global AIDS

by Bob Roehr

Joseph F. O'Neill is moving from the White House "AIDS czar" slot to the State Department to become deputy coordinator and chief medical officer of the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator. He will be the number two man at the agency that is newly created to run the government's international AIDS efforts. The announcement came in an August 14 news release.

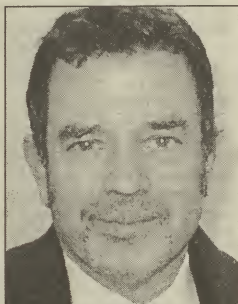
It was barely a year ago that O'Neill went to what is officially called the Office of National AIDS Policy, replacing Scott Evertz, who many viewed as ineffective. Both are openly gay and O'Neill is in a 14-year relationship.

O'Neill was the first physician to work at ONAP. He appears to have won the confidence of President Bush, who has spoken warmly of him in public. This move is seen as a promotion and is one that he quietly sought.

He is a career civil servant who received his medical training at the University of California, San Francisco and degrees in business administration and public health from the University of California at Berkeley. He served as medical director of the Chase Brexton Clinic, which was established to serve the gay and lesbian community and has evolved to become a large provider of AIDS services in Baltimore.

O'Neill was the chief administrator of the Ryan White program, which then distributed \$1.7 billion in federal funds for AIDS services. Under Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson, O'Neill moved downtown to HHS headquarters to serve as acting director of the Office of HIV/AIDS Policy, and then to the White House.

"We are sad to see him leave the White House, because of his expertise," said Scott Brawley, director of public policy at the AIDS Action Council. "But we know he will do a great job" on the international side.



Dr. Joseph F. O'Neill

Some in the community fear that interest in the international fight against AIDS is coming at the expense of domestic activities and that the administration may try to eliminate ONAP. But Brawley said that his conversations with O'Neill do not lead him to believe that will happen. AIDS Action hopes that O'Neill's successor will bring a similar level of experience and competence to that office.

"There is some speculation that Joe [O'Neill] will keep the ONAP title in addition to the global" title, said Terje Anderson, executive director of the National Association of People With AIDS. "I hope that they don't try to split him between that and ONAP because both are full time jobs."

O'Neill's acting successor at the HHS Office of HIV/AIDS Policy is Christopher Bates, another gay man, African American, and a low-key career civil servant who knows how Washington operates. Talk had been that he might move over to ONAP as O'Neill's deputy.

When asked if he was packing his bags to move to the White House, Bates replied cryptically, "I've been eyeing my bags."

Few Republicans have the necessary background to head up ONAP, as Evertz's appointment more than two years ago demonstrated. That was part of the reason why the administration went with O'Neill, and perhaps is considering Bates. ▼

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Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Harry Hoenscheidt



Everybody loved Harry Hoenscheidt, who died on Sunday, August 10, 2003, surrounded by his loving family, friends, and partner.

Harry's life will be celebrated by a gathering in his

Castro home on Friday, August 22. Please join us from 6 to 8 p.m. Additionally, his co-workers will host another gathering at Crissy Field on Friday, September 12, at 8 a.m. (Meet at the Marina gate lot). For information on either, call 415-218-5121. In lieu of flowers, please donate to your favorite charity in Harry's memory.

In his too-short 37 years, Harry packed in more than most do in two full

lifetimes. An admitted "adrenaline junkie," he passionately loved fast cars (like his "CMYBOX" yellow Boxster), bungee jumping, hot men, motorcycles, reality TV, gay rodeo, AIDS rides, the Giants, Cirque du Soleil, his family and friends, and his partner, Mike Morford. Given his positive outlook, you'd never know he'd fought HIV for 20 years.

When Harry flashed his smile at you, the world became a better, safer, and more comfortable place. No matter where he went, Harry always left the place brighter. When you met Harry, you'd think "What an incredibly nice (and sexy) guy!" And no matter how long you knew him, you'd never change your mind.

1-4-3, babe.

Thomas Scott Lindsay



Tom Lindsay died peacefully in his sleep on July 19, 2003. Born January 22, 1957, in Fort Wayne, Indiana, Tom was a proudly gay man who dedicated himself professionally and personally to preventing HIV and helping people with AIDS.

Tom moved to California more than 25 years ago and became well known in the Bay Area working for University of California, Larkin Street Youth Project, and Stop AIDS Project. In 2001 he became executive director at Face to Face/Sonoma County AIDS Project, becoming chief executive at Santa Cruz AIDS Project earlier this year. He volunteered on the board of Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center, on the Sonoma County Commission on AIDS, and in support of many other social and political causes.

Tom loved road trips, game nights, speaking German, wearing shorts in cold weather, picking gifts for his nieces

and nephews and complaining about the Bush administration. He tried his best to be a curmudgeon, but we all saw his lovely heart shining through.

Friends and family will celebrate Tom's life September 27, 2003, 2 p.m. at the SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. Gifts in memory may be made to Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center, 187 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco, CA 94102.

Amy Caroline Nuara



Amy Caroline Nuara, 30, a local singer-songwriter, musician, and animator also known as h'amy or Littlebird, died on August 6, 2003, while climbing the rocks at her favorite place, Land's End in

San Francisco. Born and raised in Richmond, Virginia, she graduated from Rhode Island School of Design before moving to the Bay Area in 1996.

Under the name Littlebird she released her first full-length CD in 2001, entitled *Angels Wait*. Her music and artwork can be enjoyed at her websites, www.littlebirdband.com, www.angelfins.net, and home.earthlink.net/~heyamy. "The Sodomite," her queer twist on Chick bible tracts, can be viewed at www.angelfins.net/peeps/sodomite.htm.

She is loved and missed by several biological family members, including her mother and stepfather, father and stepmother, four sisters, and a niece, all of Richmond, Virginia, as well as her extended queer family in the Metropolitan Community Church of San Francisco congregation and its evening gospel choir; many local musicians and music-lovers; and of course, her beloved cat Solly and her plush rainbow macaw, Skipper.

Donations in memory of Amy Nuara may be sent to the San Francisco SPCA (2400 16th St., San Francisco, CA 94103) or the Metropolitan Community Foundation (150 Eureka St., San Francisco, CA 94114).

Ken Weisinger



Ken Weisinger died on July 25 at the age of 60 after a determined battle with cancer. Ken grew up in Blanco, Texas and southern California, but spent his adult life in the Bay Area. He attended both Stan-

ford and UC Berkeley, where he was a professor in the Comparative Literature and German departments for 33 years. He also provided valuable leadership to the Education Abroad Program (EAP).

Ken was a true gentleman—courteous, unassuming, and respectful of others, but with a dry, mischievous wit. He made many good friends through his widely varied interests, including the choir at the Church of the Advent, working out at City Athletic and Muscle Systems, collecting California art, and appreciating the performing arts. He traveled frequently in Europe, where he enjoyed seeking out good food and classical music. Ken generously supported

environmental and liberal political causes, and established the Weisinger Fund to support the EAP at UC Berkeley.

Ken is survived by his mother, Ruby Weisinger, long-term companion Richard Yee, close friends Brian Wines, Mark Roberge, and Mitch Hoyl, and many other loving friends. A memorial service will be held at the Berkeley Faculty Club on September 22 at 4 p.m. Call 626-8017 for details. Contributions may be made to the Weisinger Fund.

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Celebrate this Sat.

by Zak Szymanski

A year after a brutal attack on two women at the San Francisco Drag King contest, community groups are organizing around the victims to raise money for their legal and healthcare costs as a result of the incident.

"Celebrate Survival"—a benefit for Mariah Sparks and Yvette Balderas—who will be held this Saturday, August 23, at the LGBT Community Center's Ceremonial Room, from 6-8 p.m.

In an alleged hate crime, Sparks and Balderas were reportedly hit and beaten by a heterosexual couple in attendance at last year's Drag King show at the South of Market venue Studio Z TV (formerly the Transmission Theater).

According to witnesses, al-

leged assailants Jack Broughton and Jean Earl, both of Walnut Creek, were being evicted from the club for unruly behavior when Earl reached over and punched Balderas in the face. Balderas said she followed Earl outside to ask her "who she was, and why she did that," and Earl allegedly took another swing at Balderas, who ducked and swung back. At that point, said witnesses, Broughton—who stands over 6 feet tall—hit Balderas from behind, and while yelling homophobic slurs, continued to kick and punch her in the head and body while she was unconscious. Sparks then reportedly attempted to pull Broughton off Balderas and was also hit. Broughton and Earl then left the club and, covered in blood, entered the nearby Eagle bar, where witnesses said they were calling patrons "fag-

gots" just before police found and arrested them.

Earl, who was charged with a misdemeanor, was sentenced to counseling earlier this year, while Broughton's hate crime charge was upheld by a Superior Court judge. The case has not yet gone to trial and Broughton has pleaded not guilty.

Saturday's event features performances by Other Brothers—who were performing at the time of the attack—as well as Meliza Banales, Nafis, Mario Balcita, Lady Tragik, Loco Bloco, and the Transcendence Gospel Choir.

The event is sponsored by Community United Against Violence, Proyecto ContraSIDA Por Vida, and the National Center for Lesbian Rights. Admission is \$5-\$10. Everyone is welcome, and no one will be turned away for a lack of funds. ▼

UPS lawsuit

◀ page 1

nondiscrimination laws due to the fact that married spouses would be granted such transfers.

"UPS's policy is intended to help loyal employees keep their families intact—but it wrongly excludes certain types of families, forcing people like our clients to choose between their lifelong partners and their lifelong careers," said Jon Davidson, senior counsel for Lambda's western regional office. "This kind of blatant and unabashed discrimination is clearly illegal. UPS doesn't have to let its employees relocate to stay with their families, but if the company offers this benefit to straight employees, it also has to offer it to gay employees."

The suit also charges a "breach of contract" in that UPS violated its own "Code of Business Conduct," which pledges "to conduct our business in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations" and

promises, "we do not discriminate against any applicant for employment or any employee in any aspect of his or her employment at UPS because of age, race, religion, sex, disability, sexual orientation, military status, pregnancy, national origin, or veteran status."

"Good policies," said Davidson, "need to have real meaning and be backed up with equal treatment."

Other charges in the suit include on-the-job retaliation against Kline for pursuing the matter, negligent infliction of emotional distress, and unfair business practices.

Over the last several months, said Lambda, UPS repeatedly declined to settle the matter out of court, which could have been achieved by allowing Kline to relocate to Chicago and including other employees with domestic partners in the transfer policy.

The lawsuit ultimately seeks a UPS policy change with regard to domestic partners, as well as un-

specified financial damages for Kline and Sories.

UPS is the world's largest package delivery company and the nation's fourth-largest employer, with 320,000 employees in the United States.

A surprise statement from UPS was released almost immediately after the lawsuit was filed, which claimed that Kline's request had in fact been approved, and the company had made "several unsuccessful attempts to reach Mr. Kline's attorney to inform him his client's request had been approved."

"UPS does provide relocation for domestic partners. This policy went into effect earlier this year and was going to be broadly communicated to all of our employees as part of the annual benefit enrollment process scheduled to begin in mid-September," the UPS statement said.

At press time, Lambda attorneys said the UPS statement was a positive step, but they had not seen any approval in writing, and planned to go forward with the lawsuit. ▼

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Sports Complex

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record.

Upon moving back to the States, competing at Gay Games in NYC was high on his to-do list.

"I was sure I was going to win everything. I just couldn't imagine there would be many gay divers there," Dawson said.

The 62 other divers, including several ex-Olympians, surprised him. "I modified my expectations somewhat, but still came home with two silver medals."

Since then he's competed at the Games in both Amsterdam and Sydney, earning nine medals, four of them gold. He competed at 2001's IGLA in Toronto, with similar results.

As to his training regimen and preferred dives, he said, "I'll be working on them all. I'm 45, and this takes a little more work than it used to!"

Dawson said that fewer would compete in platform diving. "Not that many people have occasion to train for it, and it can be intimidating, to put it mildly."

IGLAsing

Of course, the main bulk of events will be lane swimming in solo and relays. Hundreds of volunteers and officials will be recording stats and times throughout the weekend. The history of

IGLA is full of record-breaking events, along with all the fun.

In Sydney just last year, three American relay records were set, all by San Francisco Tsunami club members. The team of Dan Veatch, Corey Carlisle, Geoff Glaser, and Scott Robinson clocked 3:46.03 for the 400m free relay and 8:13.69 for the 800.

The 160-199 squad of Stephen Martel, Brian Fitzgibbons, Bart McDermott, and Todd Oakes swam a U.S. record 3:52.36 for the 400 free relay.

The 30-34 and 45-49 men's age groups has the highest number of swimmers, making it more competitive. About 25 percent of IGLA's participants are women. Older age groups have several other participants, and for the first time, water polo's women will have their own tournament (see last week's Sports Complex).

IGLAdiator

San Franciscan Dan Veatch, who competed at Seoul in 1988, will be one of four former Olympians swimming at IGLA 2003.

A member of the University of San Francisco Masters since 1993, Veatch finished seventh in the 200-meter backstroke at Seoul.

Veatch was also a gold medalist in the 1986 Aquatic World Championships in the 4x100 meter medley relay; a gold medalist in the 1987 Pan Pacific Games; a double gold medalist in the 1989

Pan Pacific Games in Tokyo; and a silver medalist at the 1991 Pan American games, where he was captain of the U.S. team.

After nearly losing a few toes in a boat's propeller at the 1992 Maui Channel Swim, Veatch decided to train for another open water event, the One Hour Swim. The following January, he swam 5,975 yards in 60 minutes, a new Masters record.

From 1983 to 1992, he represented the United States in competitions all over the world. A graduate of both Princeton and the University of California, Berkeley, Veatch will compete in 100 and 200 backstroke, 100 and 200 individual medley, and 400 freestyle.

Having broken the U.S. national Masters record in the 800-meter freestyle relay at a time of 8:13, does he hope for an even better time than his previous array of victories?

"I definitely set my goals in that direction," he said. "I focus on my own performance and less on my competitors. I'm happy as long as I go out and swim as well as I can." When he won a slot on the Olympic team, being gay wasn't even on his radar. "I was 23, and had not dealt with my sexuality yet."

His trip to Seoul was, nevertheless, "a fantastic experience." What he described as more grueling were the team trials six weeks beforehand.

"I was an alternate on the 1984 team, so making it in 1988 was my goal. I started swimming competitively when I was 6. So it was just a personal goal to qualify." He did, and finished seventh in Seoul in the 200 meter backstroke.

Did such a high-placed competition have its pressures? "Sure, but it was also my job at the time."

Having moved to South Florida to train, he said, "There was

much greater pressure at the trials than at the Olympics. You have to finish first or second to represent the U.S. But once you're there, your goals change from actually competing, to making finals, to winning a medal."

Now 38, he admires gay athletes for coming out, but as for coming out at Olympic-level, he said, "I don't know what it would be like now. It was more of a non-issue at that point in my life. The media, and recent legislation, have come far in 20 years, so it's easier for athletes."

Although a USF Masters swimmer for 11 years, he said, "In Sydney, we all just joined Tsunami," which helped make it the largest Games team contingent ever.

"That's what makes IGLA and the Gay Games fun at so many levels. You're participating with people who have excelled at their sport. It's fun to watch people who are passionate and successful at what they do."

Veatch and his boyfriend had trained for Gay Games V together, having met just six months prior to swimming in Amsterdam. "He had such a good time. I gave him swimming lessons. He also competed in Sydney as well."

Having won nine gold medals in Sydney, Veatch didn't, however, wear them all at any point. "I shy away from that kind of thing. It's more about my performance. Did I race well, and give it my best?"

While most of his numerous awards are "sitting in a drawer," Veatch does have one particularly amusing favorite. At the Spring Lake One Mile Open Water Race, in Santa Rosa, Veatch, the first place finisher, was dubbed "Overall Top Male."

IGLLong life

Jim Ballard, a Palo Alto native who now lives in Los Angeles, swam for Cal's NCAA championship team, and currently holds a Masters world record for the 100-meter backstroke, which he set at the Gay Games in Sydney, Australia last year.

Ballard's time of 1:03.56 for the 100-meter (long course) backstroke eclipsed Tom Wolf's world and U.S. standard of 1:03.68 set two years ago.

Ballard noted the tremendous growth in gay and lesbian sports in recent years. "In 1986, when San Francisco hosted the second Gay Games, we were struggling to find a pool," he says. "Now we're at Stanford, in one of the best facilities in the world."

He'll be swimming in the 50-, 100-, and 200-meter backstroke, and the 50- and 100-meter butterfly, with almost 100 athletes from West Hollywood's WH20.

Ballard won his first national record at the Stanford pool where he'll be swimming this weekend.

He swam through college, and studied at Cal Berkeley. "After that, most of the time, I've been swimming."

As to his sexuality, Ballard said, "I hadn't quite figured it out, and didn't come out until law school."

He was aware of other gay swimmers, though. "You knew most of the people, but the concept was not to date them. It was to beat them."

Having been with West Hollywood's team since 1982, just after it formed, Ballard has competed in every Games except the first one, winning "probably 40-something medals. It's hard to remember!" he laughed. "Anyway, I have a lot."

That doesn't stop him from checking out the competition. "There are some really fast people, almost at their college times."

In 1994's New York Games, when he first broke the world record in the 100-meter backstroke, it made the front page of the *New York Times*, along with Ballard's being a long-term HIV survivor.

He described the fairly unusual way his achievement became known. In New York, at one point during the Pink Flamingos show, the names of people who had died of AIDS was announced, followed by the more uplifting news of Ballard's world record.

Dressed as one of over a dozen Norma Desmonds at that moment, he took a bow. "The place went kind of nuts."

Asked if he sees himself as a symbol of hope for those with HIV, Ballard said, "There's hope for all of us. Whether you're positive or negative, if you participate, it somehow makes this place just

next page ▶



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Other events

compiled by Jim Provenzano

Tsunami's San Francisco social events also support local charities, with net proceeds going to Shanti and the LGBT Community Center in San Francisco. According to Healy, SF Tsunami has raised more than \$40,000 for charities in the past.

Saturday: Tsunami Water Polo's latest Splash! will be at Studio Z, 314 11th Street, Saturday, August 23, 10 p.m. - 2 a.m. The infamous Heklina of Trannyshack fame will be your hostess for the evening. \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door. (415) 252-7666.

Sunday: IGLA's closing banquet and dance party, August 24, from 7:30 p.m. to 3 a.m. at Ruby Skye, 420 Mason Street (at Geary). (\$48 for the banquet and dance, \$15 for the dance only, beginning at 10 p.m.)

Team organizers are still in need of volunteers for many functions, including serving poolside as timers and staffing information desks. People interested in volunteering should send an e-mail message to volunteers@igla2003.org.

Competition is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. More information is available at www.igla2003.org.

For online IGLA and other sports stories, visit www.sports-complex.org.

Product plays-ment

Sports Basement will have party at its store for all the gay sports teams in the Bay Area on Tuesday, August 26, from 6:30-8:30 p.m., at the Sports Basement Mission Bay location, 1301 6th Street, in San Francisco. Visit www.sportsbasement.com for directions.

Enjoy munchies, drinks, and music as well as some fun games to help generate interaction. Here's a great chance to meet fellow athletes, do a little networking, and also pick up some new duds for the trails.

Please RSVP via e-mail to SBlumberg@sportsbasement.com if you plan on attending so they will know how many people to plan for.

For more information, contact Sandy Blumberg in the marketing department at (415) 437-0100, ext. 32. ▼

COMMUNITY NEWS

Medical pot

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levels either by directly affecting the immune system or by influencing blood levels of antiHIV drugs. Because marijuana and protease inhibitors are both processed by the same enzymes in the liver, researchers wanted to find out whether the drugs would interact, possibly increasing or decreasing levels of either cannabis or protease inhibitors.

The trial included 62 HIV-positive participants who were taking combination antiHIV drug regimens including a protease inhibitor (either Crixivan or Viracept); about 90 percent were men. For 21 days, 20 participants received smoked

marijuana, 22 used dronabinol, and 20 received a placebo.

In all three groups, participants who had an undetectable HIV viral load at the start of the study (over half) maintained this low level, while individuals who started with a detectable viral load experienced no increase in HIV.

Levels of CD4 lymphocytes—a type of immune system white blood cell that typically decreases as HIV disease progresses—stayed the same in the placebo group and increased by about 20 percent in both the smoked cannabis and dronabinol groups.

"The change in lymphocyte counts for the smoked marijuana group is intriguing," said Abrams. "At a minimum, it contradicts findings from previous studies

suggesting that smoked marijuana suppresses the immune system."

Participants in both the smoked marijuana and dronabinol groups gained more weight than those in the placebo group, although the gain was mostly fat, not lean muscle mass. Many people with HIV and cancer use medical marijuana both to improve their appetite and to relieve the nausea associated with chemotherapy.

The research represents the first publication of a randomized, controlled study involving medical marijuana in a major medical journal in several years. The study was supported by a grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse, which also supplied the marijuana cigarettes used in the trial. ▼

Our Man Friday

◀ page 9

around).

And to all those lefties who are quietly annoyed that Board of Supes President **Matt Gonzalez** suddenly entered the race for mayor at the last minute, get over it. Gonzalez is a bright guy, but frankly, I think he made a huge mistake when he switched to the Green Party. San Francisco is still a very, very Democratic city and will not elect a minor party candidate mayor. Meanwhile, I'm hearing from some liberals supposedly

in the know that there is plenty of pressure on **Tom Ammiano** to drop out of the race in favor of Gonzalez, but Tom's allies are steadfast in saying fuhgeddaboutit.

Chris Bowman points out that August 29 is a date to keep an eye on as that's the last date a candidate for mayor can formally withdraw from the race and have his or her name removed from the San Francisco ballot and Voter Information Pamphlet; meanwhile, the game of "political chicken" goes on to see who, if any, of the progressive candidates will buckle and eventually toss in the towel.

Finally, in the event anyone is in-

terested, the first (and possibly only) recall debate is set for September 17 to be held at California State University, Sacramento. A 90-minute debate, it will be offered for live broadcast or taped showing to 140 television outlets and 842 radio stations across the state and only the top six candidates, as determined by nonpartisan polls in the coming weeks, will be invited to participate in the California Broadcasters Association-sponsored debate. If any of the leading contenders choose not to participate, an empty chair will be set out and viewers will be told which candidate is absent.

And how was your week? ▼

Sports Complex

◀ previous page

a little better."

Back then, Ballard's goal was simply "to survive the next three years, until the next round of therapies came along, to just hold on until they come up with something new."

Fortunately, his three-year plan has been expanded.

"It's a stretch to say it's manageable," he said. "The side effects can be miserable, but they're getting better."

Not that he lets it bother him in the pool. "When you're in a race, you don't worry about whether you're positive or negative. You don't get a medal for a T-cell count. You get something better. You get to live."

IGLAmorous

A lively member of the drag band Pepperspray and a regular Trannyshack star, Peggy L'Eggs will MC the fabulous Pink Flamingos event.

Teams compete for the top prize in performances that combine music, dance, costumes,

props, synchronized swimming, and diving. This year's theme is "Wild Wild West." Expect a stylish combination of bathing caps and cowboy chaps.

"Pink Flamingo started as a drag relay and morphed over the years to become a highlight of gay swim meets," said co-chair Healy.

"How can you go wrong with over 1,000 men and women in Speedos?"

The Pink Flamingos event begins at 4 p.m. on Sunday, August 24. Entrance for spectators to the competition and parking are free. ▼

LEGAL NOTICES

VACANCY NOTICE

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 54974, California Government Code, notice is hereby given of the following unscheduled vacancies. Interested persons may obtain an application form from the Clerk of the Rules Committee, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244, San Francisco, CA 94102-4689. Completed applications should be submitted to the Clerk of the Board. All applicants must be residents of San Francisco, unless otherwise stated. Additional information and an application may be obtained by accessing the City's web site: www.sfgov.org/bdsuprvs

Please Note: Depending upon the posting date, some vacancies may have already been filled. To determine if vacancies for this Board/Committee/Commission or Task Force are still available please call the Rules Committee Clerk at 554-5184.

ANIMAL CONTROL AND WELFARE COMMISSION - File No. 031391

The Animal Control and Welfare Commission consists of eleven members, seven of whom are voting members appointed by the Board of Supervisors. The voting members appointed by the Board of Supervisors shall be six members representing the general public having interest and experience in animal matters and one licensed veterinarian practicing in San Francisco. The other four members who are non-voting members.

Each member of the Commission of Animal Control and Welfare of the City and County of San Francisco shall be a resident of the City and County of San Francisco, except for the licensed veterinarian, who must practice in San Francisco, but who need not be a resident of San Francisco.

Sunset Date: None
Compensation: None

Vacant Seat 2, must be a member representing the general public having interest and experience in animal matters; for the unexpired portion of a two year term ending April 30, 2004.

POLL WORKER OPPORTUNITIES

Election dates: October 7, November 4, and December 9, 2003

Easily make from \$105 to \$150+ for working each election. \$100 more per election if you volunteer the use of your garage or community center as a polling place!

Over 2800 Poll Workers are needed to assist our citizens with voting on Election Day in the City and County of San Francisco. Poll workers staff over 560 polling places in various locations throughout the City and play a vital role in the process by which voters select our leaders and have a voice in our government.

Talk to your family and friends. Get together with your neighbors. Find out what you can do as a team. Help out with a group you already belong to or start your own. Make this a fundraising event! A check can be made out to your organization or club. Earn extra \$\$\$ for the holidays!!

To qualify, you must be: a U.S. citizen, resident and registered voters of San Francisco and at least 18 years old at time of the election.

For high school students 16-17 years of age attending a SF High School ask about our High School Volunteer Program.

Bilingual Chinese, Spanish and Russian speakers are encouraged to apply!

To be a poll worker, please call the recruitment line at (415) 554-4395 or visit our website at www.sfgov.org/election.

To volunteer use of a polling place, please call (415) 554-4551 for more information.



City and County of San Francisco
Department of Human Services
Request for Qualifications #248

Dear Potential Applicant:
The City and County of San Francisco Department of Human Services (SFHHS) announces its intent to seek qualifications from individuals and agencies interested in contracting to provide academic services to pregnant and parenting teens, fathers of the babies, siblings at risk of early parenting, and CalWORKs students in START. The Contractor will assess each referred clients educational needs, determine an appropriate service plan, and provide academic assistance according to the plan.

The contract will be for the period of 10/1/03 to 6/30/04, for an amount not to exceed \$35,000.

An RFQ packet may be picked up at SFHHS, Office of Contract Management, 1550 Mission Street, Suite 300, starting Monday, August 18, 2003. Office hours are from 8:30 AM to 5 PM. RFQ packets and subsequent updates will also be available on the City's website. Go to <http://SUNSET.CI.SF.CA.US/PBIDS.NSF> and click on the "Consultants and Professional Services" link.

The Respondents Conference will be held on Tuesday, August 26, 2003 at 3:00 PM at 1650 Mission St., Suite 300, SF, CA. For further information, call Joseph Huang, at (415) 557-5181. Due date for responses is Thursday, September 11, 2003 at 5:00 PM.

08/21/03 • CNS-575074 • BAY AREA REPORTER

STATEMENT FILE 0268519-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: B & B Market, 1600 Sutter Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual signed Zhi Yong Zhong. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/21/03.

JULY 31, AUG. 7, 14, 21, 2003

LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE 0268637-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Nuts-N-Bolts Graphics, 195 Eureka Street #3, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Dale K. Murphy. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on July 24, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/24/03.

JULY 31, AUG. 7, 14, 21, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0268632-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Advanced Auto Service, 5635 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Jeffrey Kwan, president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/24/03.

JULY 31, AUG. 7, 14, 21, 2003

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 0235413-00

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Advanced Autozone. Located at: 5635 Mission Street. This business was conducted by a General Partnership signed Jeffrey Kwan and Sammy Sooloo. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: October 08, 1999.

JULY 31, AUG. 7, 14, 21, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0268792-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Urban Soul Salon, 630 Chenery Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94131. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Dong Xu Fan and Chu, Yin Kwong. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/30/03.

AUG. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0268863-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Eight Thirty Seven, 837 Irving Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jimmy Nguyen. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/30/03.

AUG. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0268933-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Young's Alteration, 2192 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Sun Cha Kwon. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/05/03.

AUG. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0268869-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Cole Valley Press, 769 Cole Street, #2, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Clinton T. Seiter. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/01/03.

AUG. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2003

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 255257

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Young's Alteration. Located at: 2192 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business was conducted by an individual signed Stella Fan. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: February 19, 2002.

AUG. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CMC-03-540869

In the Matter of the Application of Huong Thi Quynh Pham. For change of Name. The application of Huong Thi Quynh Pham for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Huong Thi Quynh Pham has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Celine Huong Thi Quynh Pham. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 14th day of October at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

AUG. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2003

THIS GIVES NOTICE THAT MATT HOOVER HAS NO BUSINESS CONNECTION OR ASSOCIATION WITH AVATAR DIGITAL LLC OR ZACHARY GOTTLEB.

AUG. 14, 21, 28, SEPT. 4, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CMC-03-540867

In the Matter of the Application of Poya Lotfideh for change of Name. The application of Poya Lotfideh for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Poya Lotfideh has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Poya Adam Lotfi. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 14th day of October at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

AUG. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2003

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO. NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: CASE NUMBER: CGC-03-417346 NATIONAL CAR RENTAL SYSTEM, INC. DAVID SHANE YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: DAVID LABUA

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons is served on you to file a type-written response at this court.

A letter or phone call will not protect you; your typewritten response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case, and your wages, money and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may call an attorney referral service or a legal aid office (listed in the phone book).

The name and address of the court is: Superior Court of the State of California City and County of San Francisco 400 McAllister Street, First Floor San Francisco, Ca. 94102

The name, address, of plaintiff's attorney, is: Lawrence M. Einhorn Law Office of Lawrence M. Einhorn 6114 Lasalle Avenue #416 Oakland, Ca. 94611

JULY 31, AUG. 7, 14, 21, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CMC-03-540868

In the Matter of the Application of Jim Boe III/Jim Beagha for change of Name. The application of Jim Boe III/Jim Beagha for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Jim Boe III/Jim Beagha has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Nick Scott-Zachetti. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 14th day of October at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

AUG. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CMC-03-540871

In the Matter of the Application of Francisco Mendivil Lopez for change of Name. The application of Francisco Mendivil Lopez for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Francisco Mendivil Lopez has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Barbara Mendivil. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 14th day of October at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

AUG. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0268834-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Tony Lee Consulting, 3845 21st Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Anthony Peter Lee. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on July 31, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/31/03.

AUG. 14, 21, 28, SEPT. 4, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0269158-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Medicann, 72 Sanchez Street #2, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Joseph Erich Pearson. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on August 01, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/13/2003.

AUG. 21, 28, SEPT. 4, 11, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0269186-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Four Star Video, 402 Cortland Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a business trust signed David M. Ayob. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/14/2003.

AUG. 21, 28, SEPT. 4, 11, 2003

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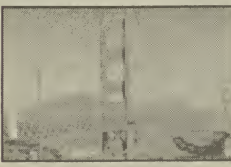
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LEGAL NOTICES

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO ORDER FOR PUBLICATION OF SUMMONS OR CITATION CASE NUMBER: FL038876

Upon reading and filing evidence consisting of a declaration as provided in Section 415.50 CCP by Edith Rivaldo Gordon, and it satisfactorily appearing therefrom that the defendant, respondent, or citee Robert Alexander Gordon, cannot be served with reasonable diligence in any other manner specified in article 3, Chapter 4, Title 5 of the Code of Civil Procedure, and it also appearing from the verified complaint or petition that a good cause of action exists in this action in favor of the plaintiff, petitioner, or citee therein and against the action or that the party to be served has or claims an interest in, real or personal property in this state that is subject to the jurisdiction of the Court or the relief demanded in the action consists wholly or in part in excluding such party from any interest in such property: NOW, on motion of Petitioner in pro per, Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff(s), Petitioner(s), or contestant(s), IT IS ORDERED that the service of said summons or citation in this action be made upon said defendant, respondent, or citee by publication thereof in The Bay Area Reporter a newspaper of general circulation published at San Francisco California, hereby designated as the newspaper most likely to give notice to said defendant; that said publication be made at least once a week for four successive weeks.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of said summons or citation and of said complaint or petition in this action be forthwith deposited in the United States Post Office, post-paid, directed to said defendant, respondent, or citee if his address is ascertained before expiration of the time prescribed for the publication of this summons or citation and a declaration of this mailing or of the fact that the address was not ascertained be filed at the expiration of the time prescribed for the publication.
AUG. 14, 21, 28, SEPT. 4, 11, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0269188-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:Video Oasis, 439 Cortland Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a business trust signed David M. Ayoob. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/14/2003

AUG. 21, 28, SEPT. 4, 11, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0269192-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:Sound Construction, 4523 Irving Street #3, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by an individual signed Robert Camus White. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/14/2003

AUG. 21, 28, SEPT. 4, 11, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0269155-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:El Farolito Bar, 2777 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Salvador Lopez. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/13/2003

AUG. 21, 28, SEPT. 4, 11, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0268904-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:TravelSearch.com, 853 Arguello Blvd. San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by an individual signed Charles M. Brossman. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on August 4, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/04/2003

AUG. 21, 28, SEPT. 4, 11, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0269280-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:Slm's 333 11th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Dawn Holliday, president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on September 16, 1988. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/19/2003

AUG. 21, 28, SEPT. 4, 11, 2003

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 2002-0261176-00

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: El Farolito Bar. Located at: 2777 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business was conducted by a corporation signed Salvador Lopez, president. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: September 26, 2002.

AUG. 21, 28, SEPT. 4, 11, 2003

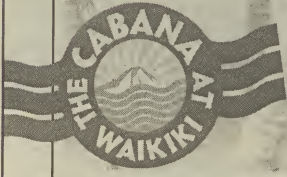
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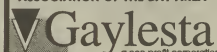
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 33 • No. 34 • 21 August 2003

Back to being fun

Pansy Division releases 'Total Entertainment!'

by Mark Mardon

Before Pansy Division, there was nothing. Then God raised Her hand, and lo, there were Tribe 8 (the first all-lesbian punk band in SF, and still going strong), Gary Floyd of Sister Double Happiness, ing, Ploughound, Victor Krummenacher, Blue Period, Moth Wranglers, Mutilated Mannequins and a whole bunch of other rock bands and artists in San Francisco identifying as queer, playing with queer themes, and enjoying the adulation of sizable queer followings.

Oh sure, there were the flaming duo Romanovsky and Phillips in the '80s, but their cutesy brand of folk music stirred passions in only a narrow range of admirers, while for many it had a certain alienating effect. If that pabulum was to be the future of queer music, then a lot of gay men would rather stick with disco, thank you very much. Fortunately for the masses starving for honest-to-goddess queer rock 'n' roll, in early 1991 singer/composer/guitarist Jon Ginoli, then working at Rough Trade Distribution, got fed up with the status quo in San Francisco, and decided to do something about it. He had come from Peoria, Illinois to be out, out, out! Pansy Division was begot with the idea of being an all-gay guy band, and soon bassist/vocalist Chris Freeman came on board, followed by drummer Luis at the end of '96 and guitarist Patrick Goodwin in '97, and as a lively crowd witnessed at Pansy Division's hard-

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Pansy Division, from left to right: Patrick, Luis, Chris, and Jon



Dancer/choreographer Robert Henry Johnson and his mother, singer Lady Mem'fis

Mother and child reunion

Robert Henry Johnson and Lady Mem'fis share the stage

by Michael Wade Simpson

When Robert Henry Johnson asked his mother to sing at one of his dance company performances a few years ago, he wasn't prepared for the impact it would have on him. "She walked out there and brought the house down without doing a thing," he said. "She has this presence."

The other thing that happened that night was even more surprising. He remembers standing onstage at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, taking bows with his dancers, and thinking, "I don't need this anymore."

His journey, since then, has been the opposite trajectory of what most choreographer/performers would dream. "I didn't want to be in a huge hall, with the audience so far away. I didn't want to be worrying about what the critics were going to say — you can never hang loose and be yourself."

"I'm sharing now," he said, in an interview a week before the opening of his much smaller-scaled performance celebrating his 10th anniversary as a choreographer, August 22-23 at the African-American Art and Culture Complex. "Now I get it."

He'll be performing on the stage where he first danced and studied, from ages 7-15. And he'll be sharing the evening not with his dance company, which he disbanded in 1998, but with his mother, the jazz singer Lady Mem'fis.

"Everything came from her, all the books on my shelf," he said. "I was fed well."

A single mother and her only child, talent runs deeply between them. Lady Mem'fis not only sings professionally, but acts and dances. The son, who toured the country with the Robert Henry Johnson Dance Company and won a slew of awards for his performing and choreography, has recently had success as a playwright. This evening is an opportunity for them to finally come together in a very personal collaboration. "We've always wanted to do something like this," he said. "We've shared things about each other, with each other."

Lady's day

A native of Cajun country in Louisiana, Lady Mem'fis has always been a great storyteller, according to her son. "I think it's something we should put out," he told her. He describes the piece they created (with the work-

page 28 ►

THEATRE

Exorcising his demons in drag

George Weiss Vando is 'ManLady' at New Conservatory

by Richard Dodds

The little girl who lived across the street from George Weiss Vando coined a name for him when she saw him in drag. He was the man lady. Now she's one of the characters who turns up in Vando's one-man show titled *ManLady*.

The central character derives from Vando's own experiences embracing drag, angrily rejecting it, and finally finding a place where his parts can live in harmony. Vando has performed *ManLady* several times in Los Angeles, where he now lives, and is currently reprising the 60-minute show for the New Conservatory Theatre Center.

Vando, the son of genuine hippie parents, grew up variously in Taos, St. Croix, and San Francisco. He began flirting with drag as a senior at Pomona College near LA. "I'd do some gender-fuck look," Vando said, "and I would purposefully walk by the baseball players in my weird outfits."

But it was after he moved to Seattle that drag turned into a consuming passion. He became a popular club entertainer, often in the guise of character Choca Fresca, and it began as a liberating experience.

"At first I performed a lot of angry songs," he said. "I had a lot of rage about the way women were treated, so I could be this powerful, angry woman, but at the same time I could also explore the sexual nature of that and be sexy as a woman. And it was the first time in my experience as an actor that I wasn't too gay."

In *ManLady*, Vando arrives onstage in "this gender nebulous kind of place" before getting into full drag. "And then I scrape it off," he said. "It's a big moment. The character has to reject himself in a way."

This part of the play comes directly from Vando's experiences. "There were a lot of people only willing to address me as the character I did a few nights a week at a club," he said. "And there were guys who I was dating who didn't



Vando: 'I had a lot of rage about the way women were treated.'

know what to make of me when I wasn't that character. I just felt that wasn't all I was."

Coupled with a painful romantic breakup that Vando then blamed on drag, he packed up the wigs and makeup and moved to Los Angeles in 2000. His day job is in community research for Childrens Hospital Los Angeles, including a current HIV-prevention project aimed at youth in West Hollywood.

"Gaining balance is very much my reality, of finding that place where I get to celebrate my own kind of uniqueness, and feel comfortable in my own skin. And that's what has resonated for audiences, the character's struggle to be real and to feel good about that reality."

Also at NCTC

ManLady is part of a triple-header of openings this weekend at the New Conservatory. *Spanked!*, like *ManLady*, is a special event, while *Kilt* marks the opening of the NCTC's Pride subscription series.

Spanked!, as its title and exclamation point might indicate, is about the pain and pleasure of the titular activity. Written and performed by real-life boyfriends Ian

MacKinnon and Aaron Hartzler, the play examines how childhood whippings became pleasurable adult activity for this pair. The production includes a demonstration of sexual spanking, and gets serious in its look at child abuse.

In *Kilt*, directed by Stephen Rupsch, the eponymous Scottish garment becomes a symbol for a family at a critical time. The particular kilt in Jonathan Wilson's play once belonged to a Glaswegian soldier and is now used in his grandson's act as a dancer in gay bar. When the old man dies, the gay man and his mother travel back to Scotland for farewells and reconciliation.

For more information on any of NCTC's shows, call 861-8972.

Updates

Bat Boy - the Musical has "indefinitely postponed" its move to the Marines Memorial Theatre after its popular run at Palo Alto's TheatreWorks. The numbers didn't crunch right, a discovery made after announcements, ads, and opening-night invitations had been issued.

Robert Morse is out and Joel Grey is in as the Wizard in *Wicked*, the musical that had a tryout run at the Curran earlier this summer and is still set to open on Broadway in the fall. The producers may be looking to Grey to find more in the vaguely writ-

ten role than Morse did in SF.

Finding 'Courage'

Shotgun Players' outdoor production of *Mother Courage* is continuing free weekend performances through Sept. 14 in Berkeley's John Hinkel Park. It's worth checking out for the strong performances led by the astonishing Trish Mulholland in the title role, director Patrick Dooley's loose use of the park space, and, most of all, for Brecht's startlingly relevant take on war.

For those who don't take to outdoor theater, there will be an indoor performance Sept. 13 at the Julia Morgan Center in Berkeley. But the production is probably best seen in the tucked-away little amphitheater set in the woody hillside park. Call (510) 704-8210. ▼

Richard Dodds can be reached at BARstage@aol.com.

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Gay for play: SF Fringe Fest offerings

Gay shortstop, gay publicist, gay universe in 12th annual series

by Richard Dodds

It all started with an image conjured at a poetry workshop: a catcher heads to the mound for a conference with the pitcher, which leads to them waltzing around the infield as they declare their love for one another. What emerged was a one-hour musical about professional baseball, from the feuds over homerun balls to the love that still isn't quite ready to speak its name in the Majors.

The Seventh Game of the World Series, written and directed by David Hadbawnik, will be performed four times during the 12th annual San Francisco Fringe Festival. A full schedule of the 12-day event, opening Sept. 3, is at www.sffringe.org, and a quick look at some of the other queer-friendly projects is offered below.

But first, *Seventh Game*, the first effort as a theatrical author and presenter for Hadbawnik, whose passions are poetry and baseball — and who is not gay. "It's kind of the last frontier of not only sports but gay rights," Hadbawnik said. "As a longtime sports participant and just a guy in general, I felt that this was a way of paying tribute to the homoerotic aspect of sports that is always there, and is always unspoken."

Hadbawnik, 33, is familiar with *Take Me Out*, the current Broadway play about a baseball superstar's decision to come out,



Stephen Berry, David Hadbawnik in *Seventh Game of the World Series*

but he said the idea for his play began percolating independently.

"I think it's something that's just in the air right now," he said. "Everything in the play is taken from real life. It's just been tweaked up a notch."

The central character is now a shortstop, and his boyfriend is

also his agent. "There's this conflict between the player wanting to come out in this naive and innocent way, and the agent who's telling him no, you're going to ruin your career."

Seventh Game is structured like a traditional musical, and Hadbawnik's experience writing poetry



Paul Outlaw in *Berserker*, a 'homoerotic stew' of sex, race and violence

was an asset in writing the song's lyrics. But the show marks his first time as a composer. "I come up with the tunes in my head, and then this composer I'm working with listens to them and writes them down and makes the arrangement. I've written songs since I was a kid, but I've never come out, so to speak, as a songwriter until now."

Casting was an unexpected challenge. "I had problems finding people to do this stuff. They'd say, 'I just don't want to be playing a gay person.' That was surprising to me, that it happens in San Francisco."

But Hadbawnik said he has no qualms if people think he is gay because of the musical. "I'm a proud citizen of San Francisco, and I'm comfortable enough with my own sexuality that I don't feel like I need to defend it and keep it in a certain place in public perception. I also feel proud to be able to make a statement on this in a positive way."

The Seventh Game of the World Series will have its performances at 7 p.m. Sept. 3; 8:30 p.m. Sept. 6-7; and 10 p.m. Sept. 13, at Exit on Taylor.

Fringe benefits

Here are some other samplings from the fest that might catch a queer eye.

Vancouver's A Queer Theater presents *69 Moments of Life*, Terry

Costa's solo drama about a gay man whose life comes rushing back when he flatlines during a medical emergency.

Craig Fox's *Far from Springer* is the story of a lesbian working at Rainbow Foods and a gay man working for the Gap whose friendship becomes strained on their road to conception.

JSC/Alchemy presents *A Beautiful Man*, Joe Jennison's new comedy about a gay publicist determined to find out if the handsome new hire is gay.

Paul Outlaw's one-man *Berserker* is described as "a homoerotic stew" exploring obsessions with sex, race, and violence, and includes quotes from Nat Turner and Jeffrey Dahmer.

Veteran gay SF playwright Joe Besecker's *Crime and Variations* is described as a "classic bitch fest" stemming from an unsuccessful backers' audition for a new Sondheim musical.

In *Diagnosis: Jew Pain*, comic Michael Feldman recounts growing up bisexual in a conservative Brooklyn Jewish family.

Trevor Wight's *The Disco Prophecies* looks at the Australian suburban boy who finds enlightenment in the glitter ball. ▼

For more information on the Fringe Fest, call 673-3847 or go to www.sffringe.org.

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R.H. Johnson

◀ Arts cover

ing title "She Sings") as a kind of patchwork quilt of oral history, a collage of sounds and memories — the story of Lady Mem'fis' first five years, and how music contributed to her development and emotional survival.

Also on the program is a piece called "Two Elements," which Johnson choreographed in order to bring out in movement the essence he takes from two songs his mother has always sung. One is a folk song popularized by Odette, "Waterboy," and the other is the classic lynching song Billie Holiday made famous, "Strange Fruit."

Of his mother's rendition of "Waterboy," Johnson said, "When she sings that song, I remember something that was promised to me — but I can't articulate it. It's like the voice of God, declaring great hope and deliverance. It alters you."

Johnson makes no apologies about his Christian faith, although even in a dance entitled "Letter to Jesus," he is not out to

proselytize. The piece uses techno music and aims to translate the "praise dance" found in African-American worship services into something more like art. "I studied for all these years and had this need to make huge pieces with 20 dancers on a big stage," he said. "Letter to Jesus" was my attempt to choreograph something compact, a note, a poem, using only gestures and a 5 x 7 ft. space.

"Here is where I am, here are my thoughts, take it, this is what it is," he said, describing his process these days. "People like to see me dance, it is a gift, and I accept it now. I want to bring it to people in small, intimate settings. I believe that arts are healing, dance is healing."

"I feel like I've grown up," he said. ▼

Robert Henry Johnson presents *Duchess and the Dancer*, Fri. & Sat., Aug. 22-23, 8 p.m., at Buriel Clay Memorial Theater, African American Art and Culture Complex, 762 Fulton St. Tickets: (415) 621-3778, ext. 2.

FILM

Fun in Sherwood Forest

'The Adventures of Robin Hood' at Castro

by Tavo Amador

Y outhful memories can be tricky and are often best left unchallenged. Most of us have seen Errol Flynn in *The Adventures of Robin Hood* (1938) more than once on television and recall it with relish, but how does it hold up today on a big screen? For once, the memories are accurate — the movie is a grand, rip-roaring entertainment. See for yourself when the restored print plays the Castro Theatre August 22-28.

Set in 1197, when King Richard the Lionhearted (Ian Hunter) has been taken prisoner in Austria while returning to England from one of the Wars of the Crusades, the movie skirts around history, substituting a direct good vs. bad guys plot for fact. In this

case, the hero is Robin Hood (Flynn), a Saxon noble who steals from the rich to help the poor. The villain is Prince John (the marvelous Claude Rains), abetted by the elegant Sir Guy of Gisbourne (a memorable Basil Rathbone) and the cowardly High Sheriff of Nottingham (the amusing Melville Cooper), all Normans descended from William the Conqueror and his nobles. In the title role, Flynn is everything an action hero should be: smart, ethical, handsome, strong, dashing, brave.

Many swashbuckler films of the era had pretty but passive leading ladies. This is a glorious exception. As Maid Marian, Olivia de Havilland is not only beautiful (her large dark eyes and radiant smile are luminous), she is bright, spirited, courageous, and has great chemistry with Flynn. It is she

who figures out how to rescue Robin when he is captured by Gisbourne, and gets word to him that Richard is back in England. (In actuality, de Havilland is a direct descendant of a Norman noble.) Marian is ably assisted by her loyal maid, Bess, the hilarious Una O'Connor. Robin's band of merry men includes Alan Hale, Sr. as Little John, the wonderful Eugene Palette as Friar Tuck, and an almost too pretty Patric Knowles as Will Scarlett. The exceptional cast makes each character fully rounded. The plot may be straightforward, but the people are complex.

Original director William Keighley was replaced by Michael Curtiz (*Casablanca*, *Yankee Doodle Dandy*, *Mildred Pierce*) because the action sequences needed livening up. Curtiz succeeded admirably. Flynn swings through



Basil Rathbone and Errol Flynn cross swords in a scene without doubles.

Sherwood Forest using vines like a medieval Tarzan. His swordfight with Rathbone is thrilling — and especially remarkable because neither actor used doubles. Today's action films rely on ever-increasing violence and dehumanizing special effects, so it's a joy to watch one with people behaving in ways that seem natural and exciting.

Movie trivia buffs should

know that after filming ended, de Havilland's horse was purchased by Roy Rogers and rechristened "Trigger."

Shot in jewel-like colors, with a rousing, Oscar-winning original score by Erich Wolfgang Korngold, the restored print looks and sounds beautiful. The film also won Academy Awards for Art Direction and Editing. *The Adventures of Robin Hood* is a classic. ▼

King of the swashbucklers

The film career of matinee idol Errol Flynn

by Tavo Amador

E rrol Flynn (1909-59) was the greatest Hollywood swashbuckler, handsomer than Douglas Fairbanks, Sr., more light-hearted than Burt Lancaster. At his best, Flynn projected an assured, sexy friendliness, but he wasn't to be crossed. The release of a newly restored print of his finest film, *The Adventures of Robin Hood* (1938), warrants a look at his career.

He was born in Tasmania to a middle-class family. According to David Shipman, the young Flynn was a "professional and bisexual adventurer" who worked on ships, smuggled diamonds, and beat a murder charge. He joined a filmed expedition to New Guinea, then played Fletcher Christian in a semi-documentary, *In Wake of the Bounty*. A producer suggested he go to London, where Flynn appeared in a couple of shows before encountering *Murder in Monte Carlo* ('34) for Warners, who signed him.

In Hollywood, he had bits in *The Case of the Curious Bride* and *Don't Bet on Blondes* ('35), then replaced Robert Donat as *Captain Blood*. He had charm, authority, and remarkable chemistry with leading lady Olivia de Havilland. The studio re-teamed them in *The Charge of the Light Brigade*, another hit.

In '37, he was a reformed playboy getting *The Green Light*, made *The Prince and the Pauper*, faced *Another Dawn*, and was Joan Blondell's *Perfect Specimen*, a good comedy. Next year, he was a smash *Robin Hood*, easily his greatest role. He was good as a publicist with Rosalind Russell in *Four's a Crowd*, then was a newspaperman in *The Sisters*, his first with Bette Davis, who didn't like him, although she admitted he was "handsome and arrogant, and utterly enchanting." He got good reviews on *Dawn Patrol*, but was miscast with de Havilland in *Dodge City*, although the film succeeded and he entered the Top 10 box office stars.

Warners offered him and Davis to David Selznick for *Gone with the Wind*, but the idea of Flynn as Rhett Butler "appalled" her. To Davis' eternal chagrin, Selznick also rejected her as Scarlett. In-

stead, they were *Elizabeth and Essex* ('39), a smash about England's Virgin Queen. He finally joined the American Civil War by visiting *Virginia City*, then played an Elizabethan sailor in *The Sea Hawk*, before hitting the *Santa Fe Trail* with de Havilland ('40), all successful.

Flynn was a detective in *Footsteps in the Dark*, then a *Dive Bomber*, before his final pairing with de Havilland in *They Died with Their Boots On* ('41), as General Custer. That same year he was acquitted of statutory rape — two teenage girls were involved, and the expression "In like Flynn" was coined. He took a poorly received *Desperate Journey* ('42), then was *Gentleman Jim* (Corbett, a famous boxer), before joining the Norwegian resistance on the *Edge of Darkness*. He was amusing in the all-star *Thank Your Lucky Stars*, guesting as a cockney sailor.

More World War II combat followed: *Northern Pursuit*, *Uncertain Glory* ('44) and *Objective Burma* ('45). He had become an American citizen to avoid serving with the British forces, and was medically disqualified. David Niven said guilt over not serving drove him to drink and drugs. Public disenchantment was reflected in the poor box office of *San Antonio*, *Never Say Goodbye* ('46), forcing Barbara Stanwyck to *Cry Wolf*, and suffering with Ida Lupino in *Escape Me Never* ('47). He and Ann Sheridan visited *Silver River*, but few others did. He was more like his old self in *The Adventures of Don Juan* ('48), then MGM borrowed him for Soames opposite Greer Garson's *That Forsythe Woman* ('49), a fine performance.

He toured *Montana* and *The Rocky Mountains*, was in *Kim*, then something called *Hello God* ('50), which was never released. At Republic he wrote and starred in *The Adventures of Captain Fabian* ('51), then broke with Warners after *Mara Maru*, a pallid adventure. He returned to swashbuckling at Universal, but without his old élan or good looks: fighting *Against All Flags*, as *The Master of Ballantrae*, and *Crossed Swords* ('53) with Gina Lollobrigida. In England he gathered *Lilacs in the Spring* ('54) and enjoyed *The King's Rhapsody* ('55).

He was *The Dark Avenger* before journeying to *Istanbul* ('56) and getting *The Big Boobles* ('57).

Flynn excelled as Mike Campbell in *The Sun Also Rises* ('57), and played John Barrymore in *Too Much Too Soon* (1958), but the film failed. He was another al-

coholic in John Huston's *The Roots of Heaven*, and finished the trashy *Cuban Rebel Girls* ('59) before dying of a heart attack. Earlier, his old boss, Jack Warner, said he resembled "the living dead," a sad epitaph for a man who once personified *joie de vivre*. ▼



Errol Flynn, bisexual playboy

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California dreaming

Oakland Museum's 'Iconic to Ironic' show

by Kevin Davis

More people worldwide dress in casual, bold, frisky styles sprouting from West Coast beaches, side-walks and bohemian textile workshops than from anywhere else, including Manhattan and Paris ateliers. The world voraciously consumes California's relaxed and pragmatic, yet intrepid and sometimes gaudy dressing.

Curators of the Oakland Museum of California's exhibit *Iconic to Ironic: Fashioning California Identity* adroitly steward several vast, diverse theses. Of the five categories the exhibit covers, the "Denim," "Swimwear," and "Fusion" wings are tightly focused yet thorough. Slight editing might refine the show's anchor, "Hollywood Style," while the "Casual" (that is, non-active Sportswear) and "Local Merchandising" wings lack requisite depth.

"Jean Pool" kicks off with a

comfy pair of 1890 riveted Levi's Barnyard pants, with copper suspender buttons and leather back-cinch uncannily resembling the wide-legged, gravity-defeated monster pants favored by today's juveniles. A slightly distressed pair tailored for James Dean also resemble something *au courant* on the rack at Worn Out West. The diminutive star's garments mounted at eye-level bring the celebrity's towering celluloid impression down to humble dimensions.

Patchwork, boot-cut, hip-hugging and feathered by Tom Ford, Mylar-treated by Sean John, or pegged by Calvin and Versace, Mr. Strauss' original model, which fit better the more they are worn, inspired them all.

Poster-size photos convey the T-shirt's ascendance from regulation issue WWII underwear popularized by Gene Kelly in *Thousands Cheer* ('43) to sexed up, absorbent, combed cotton *objet in-time* in *Rebel Without a Cause*.

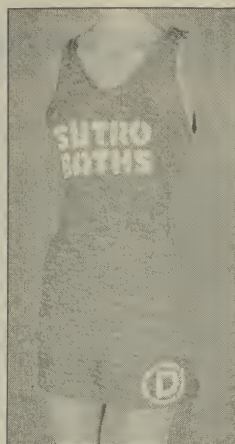
A purple velvet harlequin Pier-

rot jumpsuit with ruffled chiffon collar designed and worn by figure-skater Rudi Galindo; a '20s knitted wool Sutro Baths swimsuit; and a '69 laminated, neoprene, inflatable Supersuit lend local flavor.

In 1932, Fred Cole created the fashion swimsuit, scooped low in back with plunging neckline, in coral, aqua and geranium, then sold it at Macy's New York in January, thus inventing the resort season. Cole designer Margrit Fellegi bared the midriff in '39 and invented Matlext, a stretchable cotton with elastic thread that fits the contours of the body.

Star wardrobe

Esther Williams' sequined *Mil-lion Dollar Mermaid* ('52) swimsuit with sparkling pyettes, by MGM costumer Helen Rose, provides the exhibit's transition from swimwear to Hollywood. Swimming films justified showing female flesh while evading censors. "Dressing the Stars" delineates



'20s Sutro Baths swimwear



Dress inspired by Adrian design

Both photos courtesy of Oakland Museum of California

the impact that movie costumes had on audiences. Joan Crawford's oversized, ruffle-sleeved Gilbert Adrian gown from *Letty Lynton* ('32), reproduced and sold at Capwell's on Market St., illustrates life reflecting Hollywood.

Brad Pitt's slick, Jeffrey Kurland-tailored suit with iridescent silk shirt and wide lux tie, from Steve Soderbergh's *Ocean's Eleven* ('01),

likely predicted menswear's drift toward sumptuous, virile gigolo chic for the magnetic metrosexual.

William Travilla's iconic pleated white halter-dress for Marilyn Monroe's subway airvent scene in *The Seven Year Itch* carries the exhibit's most star power. A contract designer for 20th Century Fox, Travilla also costumed *Valley of the Dolls* ('67) and TV soap *Dallas*.

The section devoted to Bay Area merchandising and retailing methods is informative but contains glaring gaps. "Peddling the Identity" commences with Joseph Magnin's 1970s haute graphic art-designed gift-boxes. Architectural fragments from the ceramic façade of Oakland's art deco Gray Shop department store accompany magnified images of its minimalist elegant interior.

A '65 knitted polyester Lilli Ann coat by flamboyant designer Adolph Schumann represents sensible hooker wear, a favorite with streetwalkers who could bundle up on chilly evenings and still look opulent, but tarty and fun, too. His faux mink, Mohair and suede sculpted suits and coats with slim-tailored waists and flared collars still have a cult following in the vintage trade.

In the "Fusion" gallery, Indigenous Americans, Aztec Chicano immigrants and Chinese railroad laborers reinvented their diverse cultural aesthetic traditions into today's California style. Age of Aquarius youth embraced home-made processes — knitting, crocheting, embroidery and dyeing, hand-embellishing their jeans with psychedelic colors.

A rainbow-crocheted bra paired with Mayan patchwork jeans by Alexandra Jacopetti-Hart; Haight seamstress Linda Gravenites' beaded, embroidered leather bag for Janis Joplin; a museum trustee's mellowed brown leather pants with chunky bone button; and a rare, handmade Victorian denim granny-dress with beaded yoke by flower-child street artist Laurel Burch all illustrate hippie kids' rejection of consumer society's mass-produced fashion.

Louella Ballerino's 1938 Latin-spirited toreador pants and full rustic skirt with concentric color bands illustrate retailers' *Mi Amigo* movement, which promoted South of the Border concepts. Ballerino studied Hispanic culture, then created off-the-shoulder blouses and skirts embellished with embroidery and ribbons.

Marian Clayden's exquisite "Rain dress" in voided velvet; Cathryn Westphal's pane velvet tunic with Xerox-transferred Egyptian images; an ornate Candace Kling headdress; and Jean Cacicedo's hand-dyed, hand-stitched wool-appliqued coat, all exemplify today's mature, grass-

next page ►

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PHOTOGRAPHY

Hearts and minds, literally

Photographs from the Mütter Museum at SF Camerawork

by Will Shank

The innocuous title of the current exhibition at SF Camerawork, *Mütter Museum: Photographs*, may not attract the attention of most readers, but for anyone who is familiar with one of Philadelphia's most quirky tourist sites, it will make them sit up and take notice. The museum's annual pictorial calendar had become a cult item among admirers of the bizarre and macabre. It inexplicably ceased publication as of 2003, which seems to this writer a marketing miscalculation along the lines of canceling Original Coke.

Founded in 1856 by retiring professor of surgery Thomas Dent Mütter, the Museum of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia houses an important collection of anatomical specimens and models showing medical curiosities. It gained fame in the 19th century as a serious site of research, because of the availability of its rare specimens. But while retaining its high academic seri-



Skeletons of infant abnormalities are some of the visual treats on display.

ousness, it also evolved into a kind of freak show in the 20th century, attracting the prurient interests of the quizzical and the admirers of the downright creepy.

The photographed version of the museum visit will also attract

the element of the curiosity-seeking public who rubberneck at car wrecks, and the small exhibition space was indeed hopping on a recent weekday afternoon. It is certainly true that not every gallery experience (outside perhaps those featuring works by Damien Hirst) gives you the chance to view vertical cross-sections of a human face and skull, in this case a 1910 specimen photographed in 2001 by Arne Svenson.

Original photographs and accessioned objects from the museum's collection are also on view, and they expose such abnormalities as skeletons of twins conjoined at the head. Some of the images are downright stomach-churning, and it hardly matters if they represent actual natural specimens or wax versions, if the image shows syphilitic sores on the tongue of a child, or an adult male head, thrust back, its neck stripped of yellow flesh to show the lymphatic system (they're both wax).

But there is an artfulness to the interpretation of the museum in-



Wax casts of eye diseases: downright creepy pictures for prurient interest

stallations which adds another element, and some dignity, to the Camerawork exhibition. As in Richard Barnes' series of contemplative renderings of dusty objects in the storage room of a museum in Egypt, recently on view at Hosfelt, beauty turns up in unexpected places.

For sheer minimalist beauty, try the splendid gelatin silver prints of Ariel Ruiz i Altaba, such as "Evidence Unseen" (2001), a black-and-white image of empty blown-glass specimen jars floating on a white background. A brilliantly red human heart against a black background in a glass vessel, seen in a digital print by Olivia Parker ("Heart," 1994), glows with an intense beauty from beyond the grave. The visual effect is incidental to the heart's having been injected with true vermilion pigment in order to highlight the coronary arteries.

Parker's "The Murderer's Brain," a 1996 view of the pickled gray matter of one John M. Wilson, hanged in the Philadelphia suburb Norristown in 1887, recalls the exhibition of photographs of crimes and the criminally insane mounted by SFMO-MA a few years back.

In the hands of photographer William Wegman, the images are downright funny. His ubiquitous Weimaraners pose with their paws on museum objects (where were the guards?), or they peer, deadpan, in reflection from the back of exhibition vitrines that hold human anatomical samples. Thanks for the comic relief! ▼

Mütter Museum: Photographs, through September 6 at SF Camerawork, 1246 Folsom St. Info: (415) 863-1015 or sfcamerawork.org.

Iconic to Ironic

◀ previous page

roots, hand-process artisan couture.

Here's Kaisik Wong's mystical, translucent Tibetan-influenced "Seven Rays" spiritual armor dress, and the '73 men's collage vest which the House of Balenciaga's Nicolas Ghesquiere blatantly copied line for line last year, including the horsehair tassels. The offense awakened new interest in Wong's tribal-padded bibs and tunics, with ornamental layering combining a range of opaque, metallic Mayan and Chinese textiles that trace the body form. Wong, who appeared around town dressed as the Monkey King, an Asian folklore prankster char-

acter, never used patterns. Instead, with a pair of scissors in each hand, he let the spirit or "energy" guide him. Wong's patrons included Ann Getty, Dodie Rosekrans and Tina Turner, before his death of AIDS-related illness in 1990.

A Hells Angels motorcycle vest with death's-head centerpiece rounds out the tour, exhibiting how Bay Area bad boys show their colors. ▼

Iconic to Ironic runs through Sept. 21 at the Oakland Museum of California, 10th & Oak Sts. in Oakland, one block from Lake Merritt BART station. Admission: \$6. Info: (510) 238-2200.

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Immodest about Modest

Life of the great, gay Musorgsky explored in new bio

by Tim Pfaff

Queer music criticism has upped the ante in the "Who's gay?" mostly academic parlor game about composers of earlier centuries. While, for a

variety of reasons (in addition to lack of documentary evidence, earlier eras' understanding of homosexuality), we may never have the definitive "proof" that some creators we'd love to count among our ranks indubitably belong there, it's pretty much accepted

that Modest Musorgsky (yes, one "s" these days) is "ours."

I was intrigued to read in the *New York Times* review of David Brown's *Musorgsky* (Oxford, \$35) that the "no-holds-barred biography" of the great 19th-century Russian composer offered "more about the composer's sexuality than you wanted to know." Doubting that was true of *BAR* readers, I beat a path to the book, only to wonder if something had been cut from galleys sent to critics.

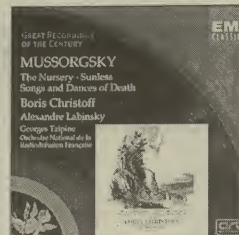
admirer of one of the true geniuses of opera wants to know is Vladimir Stasov's allegation that "Musorgsky suffered from a malformation of his sexual organs which inhibited, but did not prevent, sexual activity." (How did he, the composer's most ardent supporter, know?) If so, no wonder Musorgsky drank himself to death at 42, with *Khovanshchina* and *Sorochintsky Fair* yet unfinished.

Brown modestly concedes that the best writing on Musorgsky is by Richard Taruskin. But for those who might not fully fathom Taruskin's work, Brown's standard but immensely readable "life and works" will do handsomely. While it's aimed at the musically literate and sprouts musical examples abundantly, it's written for appreciators who may include experts.

The chapters on *Boris Godunov* (now considered the quintessential Russian opera, one of the greatest of all 19th-century operas, and one of the most original works in the canon) may prove the roughest sledding. But the good news about this book is that it continually sends you running back to the music. (For *Boris*, try the Philips DVDs of the Kirov production conducted by Valery Gergiev with all-around great singing and staggeringly great performances by Robert Lloyd as Boris and Olga Borodina as Marina.)

Russian wave

The life is rendered with clarity yet deep sympathy, the horrors of the composer's tragic, alcoholic end neither sanitized nor sensationalized. The supporting cast is made up of the greatest composers and musicians of Musorgsky's day, and Brown's accounts of their interactions, social and artistic, makes you want to have been a fly on the wall. What will amaze some readers is how many names that would hardly have registered a decade ago — Dargomizhsky, Cui, Balakirev — are now familiar figures on our new musical landscapes. This is



further confirmation, if more were needed, that the tidal wave of music and musicians that poured out of post-Soviet Russia was one of the great musical "happenings" of the last century.

Perhaps Brown's greatest achievement is his handling of the composer's 64 songs, which appeared like benchmarks throughout Musorgsky's creative life. Brown's analysis of both the cycles and the individual songs is keen, and he writes about them in a way that makes one want to hear them on the spot.

Coincidentally, the book has appeared simultaneously with EMI's release of *The Three Famous Song Cycles of Mussorgsky* (the old spelling) with bass Boris Christoff on its *Great Recordings of the Century (GROC)* series. Christoff's legendary accounts of the songs have graced the catalogue in countless packagings, though recent scholarship now clarifies that they are not, as they once were thought to be, either the "complete" Musorgsky songs or even the composer's own versions. (For those, go to the superb set by Sergei Leiferkus and Semion Skigin.)

But veteran listeners' association of Christoff with Musorgsky (his *Boris*, in the old, outmoded Rimsky-Korsakov orchestration, is also in the new *GROC* series) is hardly accidental. There have been darker, more powerful basses, but rarely another as eloquent as Christoff, whose artistry often ventures far beyond the realm of what we think of as "singing," let alone "beautiful." His groans, howls, old-hag and young-child sounds are singular and utterly inimitable. Hearing the best of the songs anew, in their best sound ever, is a revelation, and even owners of the old "complete" sets owe themselves this astonishing single CD. ▼



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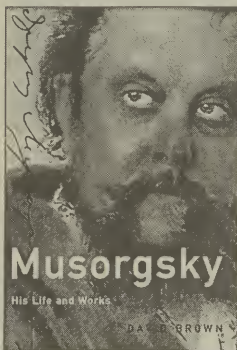
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Brown, a retired British musicologist, claims that the matter of Musorgsky's gayness is likely to remain speculative. While he mentions possible "sexual attractions of a different kind within the circle of young men with whom he was now mixing" (and his mentor Balakirev's disapproval thereof) — this is the stuff that feels queerest to me — Brown cites equally plausible attractions to women. As fairly, he directs readers to a bit of queer musicology that purports "that the key to Musorgsky's baffling sexuality is masochism."

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BOOKS

You are gorgeous and I'm coming

by Michael McDonagh

Digressions on Some Poems by Frank O'Hara by Joe LeSueur; Farrar, Straus & Giroux, \$25.

Just about everyone is self-absorbed these days. The latest rapper, the movie star of the week, the politician with the tell-all tome of how she's suffered, they've all got axes to grind and fortunes to make from their woe. Everyone seems to think that their story is unique and worth our complete, undivided attention.

Well, truth to tell, they're mostly not, and their lives, far from being full, much less abundant, are frequently running on empty. Then you have someone like the legendary New York poet Frank O'Hara (1926-66), who was truly unique, and whose poems embraced the life he lived, and made it feel utterly fresh, fascinating, and completely vibrant. Add to that the fact that he had no axes to grind, no money, and never expected to make any from his work, and you have a true bohemian who really was devoted to the moment, and to his many friends in the New York art world of his time.

Joe LeSueur died two years ago, at age 77. His memoir of his life with O'Hara — he shared four apartments in Manhattan with him, from 1955 to 1965 — is affectionate and insightful in equal parts. LeSueur paints a vivid picture of pre-Stonewall gay life, which seems, at this long remove, somehow healthier than the ghettoized, "us vs. them" one being served up now. I should make it clear that neither O'Hara nor LeSueur made any apologies for their gayness. All their friends knew, and the straight ones were, for the most part, entirely accepting.

O'Hara had the habit of falling in love with friends on both sides of the fence, and they, more often than not, returned his unequivocal affection. "At any time during the years I lived with him," LeSueur observes of O'Hara, "he was involved intimately, very intimately, with at least three people besides me. Did he have a best friend? No, not while I knew him; but as [painter] Larry Rivers pointed out in his graveside speech, many people thought he was their best friend."

Family of friends

Who were these friends? Just about everyone of note in this far-from-conformist '50s group — painters like Willem DeKooning, Jasper Johns, Jane Freilicher, Grace Hartigan, Joan Mitchell, Franz Kline, Philip Guston; composers Morton Feldman, Virgil Thomson, Samuel Barber, Gian Carlo Menotti, Ned Rorem; and poets Edwin Denby, Bill Berkson, James Schuyler, Kenneth Koch, and John Ashbery, who introduced the author to O'Hara at a New Year's Eve party at his apartment in 1951. The last four named poets are often called the New York School, in emulation and homage to the painters they knew and mutually influenced. Their work, however, is widely dissimilar, with Ashbery's being the most oblique, sometimes downright hermetic. Though his was never really baldly autobiographical (he was too smart and imaginative for that), O'Hara's work was nevertheless rooted in the shifting emotional landscape of his life.



Mario Schiavo, estate of Joe LeSueur

O'Hara's poetry (headline above is a poem title) is subtle and musical.

LeSueur's digressions are very good at placing these in the context of individual poems. The matter-of-fact yet heart-breaking "The Day Lady Died" (July 17, 1957), for example, gets pieced together from the viewpoints of different actors in the poet's life at the time. "At Joan's" (July 31, 1959) was written at Mitchell's St. Mark's Place studio apartment, and comes from what LeSueur calls "the Vincent Warren period... whose marvelous poems testify to what finally came together for Frank, love and the reciprocation of love — physical, sexual, romantic love, fully and deeply real-

ized." It's obvious, if one has ever immersed oneself in O'Hara's work, that all of his poems are variations on that multifarious, inescapable subject. The poet's lyrics around, about, and on his beautiful dancer boyfriend are pretty much unequalled in his output, but one would be churlish to dismiss the others as being of less merit.


LeSueur wisely skirts this easy trap. His discussions of the environments out of which O'Hara's poems grew are always natural, often pointed. O'Hara virtually invented the "I did this and then I did that" poem, but few have

come close to the pitch-perfect things he made in this new form. That's not just because his technique was so subtle and entirely musical — his line breaks are never arbitrary, but natural, necessary as breath — but because they are lit from within. Their spectacular, in-the-moment rightness is exactly like being in love.

O'Hara often was in love, and the pulse of that feeling, whether for an experience of a friend, or a random moment snatched from the life of New York, does more than just inform his work. It is it,

pure and simple. LeSueur's book joins a small but discerning group about this seminal artist, and it's probably as close as we can get to this straightforward yet mysterious poet. A generous sampling of black-and-white photos helps, and there's some deep dish, too, and even a digression on some round-robin sexual goings-on between O'Hara and company, which makes the arch posings at the fag-end of last week's circuit party in Guerneville look very pale indeed. Thank God I was there with someone entirely lovely. ▼

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Looking for Mr. Goodsperm

Lesbian adventures in 'Buying Dad'

by David Lamble

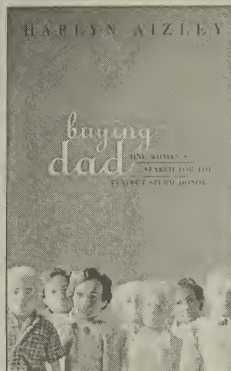
Buying Dad: One Woman's Search for the Perfect Sperm Donor by Harlyn Aizley; Alyson Publications, \$14.95

In the many surreal moments that occurred to Harlyn Aizley and her lover Faith during the many months it took to find the right stuff, the perfect "spunk" from the right anonymous "Dad" to make them a baby, the one that really stands out is the time Harlyn and Faith browsed the website of a Georgia sperm bank. For a fee of \$100, the women got six months' access to pictures of all their donors. Think about it! Two women who have dedicated their lives to living in the womb of a female-friendly relationship were now spending most of their leisure time looking for the perfect man. It's almost like they had become casting directors for the movie of their life together and they had been given a choice of actors to play the hero, the villain, the Dad. As the nights rolled on, Aizley started to have unsettling feelings about these men.

"I dream I'm looking at photographs of the donors, and they all look like characters from *Deliverance*. There are blond men — and women (!) — with bad teeth and bulging pink lips," she writes.

"I become obsessed with California sperm. I decide that in California, struggling artists donate sperm, while in the South, white supremacists bent on creating an Aryan nation donate in order to enhance their genetic load. Faith and I have a date to view the pictures of the Southern bigots."

In a still darker moment, Aizley confesses that all this "Southern Comfort" began to get to her on an even more personal level, that she started to be haunted by



these "ghost dads." "We come to feel we shouldn't see them. That it's better to picture a donor in your mind, better to fantasize a man who looks like your partner, than to raise your family in the shadow of a stranger whose photo lurks upstairs in a locked file cabinet year after curious year."

Designer babies

At times, it seems like just a blink of an eye since we entered this brave new world of designer babies, and already the movement is starting to develop its own literature. Harlyn Aizley's *Buying Dad: One Woman's Search for the Perfect Sperm Donor* joins Dan Savage's *The Kid: What Happened after My Boyfriend and I Decided to Go Get Pregnant*, books that provide a kind of gender stereo version of the bewildering array of choices that have sprung up for queer parents. Reading *Buying Dad* back to back with *The Kid*, one could swear that Aizley and Savage had sat in adjoining cubicles describing their separate roads to parenthood.

One thing that seems to differentiate men and women in the queer parenting derby is the

speed at which they seek to get the crucial sticky stuff. Savage laments the paralysis that seemed to envelop "Lesbian Couple," the women to whom he had initially offered his sperm. Finally, he and his boyfriend decided to go the adoption route "after a year talking to three lesbians who probably couldn't have agreed to rush out of a burning building."

In droll prose, Aizley describes the perfectly logical morass of indecision that caused Faith and her to agonize endlessly over their options. They even gave their guys nicknames: their choice became a battle between "the Moose" and "the Squirrel," between "Big Jew" and "Giant Jew."

"And then there's a man who looks like Matt Dillon. Faith is in love. Even though the Matt Dillon donor has a horrible genetic illness that runs through both sides of his family, Faith doesn't care. She confesses that all she wants is good-looking kids."

In an era when sperm banks are as abundant and as attentive to consumer needs as health clubs, queer people have no monopoly on pursuing changes in child-rearing, or on breakthroughs in reproductive technology that resemble science fiction as much as science.

Aizley's account stresses how carefully she and Faith were to ensure that their decision to seek an anonymous donor didn't conflict with the future need of their child to know "Dad," while still avoiding forcing the mothers to share parental responsibilities with a strange man as if they were part of a group marriage.

Ironically, Aizley's greatest service with *Buying Dad* is to provide a kind of diary of a lesbian marriage, detailing humorously and movingly Aizley and Faith's Byzantine steps to having their baby, steps that parallel the battle of Aizley's mother to overcome ovarian cancer. ▼

International dance beat

by Gregg Shapiro

Picking up where Yellow Magic Orchestra and Pizzicato Five left off, the duo of Korean American Sukho Lee and Japanese Lun*na Menoh, known as Seksu Roba, takes its place at the electroclash table with *Pleasure Vibrations* (Eenie Meenie), and passes the peas. "Hesitation" recalls the Human League, while Lun*na's vocals on "LA Freeway" reminded me of Missing Persons' Dale Bozzio at her most blasé.

One of Seksu Roba's most daring moves is its transformation of Jimmy Webb's '60s standard "Up, Up and Away" into the kind of slow-moving moog chill-out that Air might have once attempted. Closing track "Improvisation for 5 Theremins" gives producer and instrumentalist Lee an opportunity to show off for a couple of minutes. See also: Puffy AmiYumi - *Nice* (Bar/None).

It's officially time to declare the end to the boycott of all things French and invite the eclectic, electric French trio Margo into your lives. Tasty as crepes and stylish as a vintage Hermes scarf, the 11 songs on *The Catnap* (tsk! tsk!) are as seductive as Catherine Deneuve. No smoke-filled room would be complete without the song "Take Me," on which vocalist Melanie's vocodered voice sounds like an accordion. The instrumental "Coffee Song" percolates at its own sweet, slightly bitter pace, while "Luminous" provides a different kind of light.

Summer music doesn't get much sunnier than the 15 tracks on the self-titled debut disc by the trio Mosquitos (Bar/Nóne). Much less irritating than the pesky insects for which they're named, Chris Root, Jon Marshall Smith and genuine girl from Ipanema Juju Stulbach give Sergio Mendez's nearly 40-year-old way with a Brazilian beat a face-



lift. "Boombox," with its references to a boombox, suntan lotion and a guy who's "so far out he fits right in," is beach music extraordinaire, perfect for dancing in the sand. "Forever Song" is a vintage '60s cinematic soundscape, complete with organ and Pony-beat. Brazilian music hasn't sounded this immediate and fresh since Bebel Gilberto showed up at the party three years ago. See also: *Smokey and Miho* - *The Two EPs* (El Diablo/Afro Sambas) and *Astrud Gilberto: The Diva Series* (Verve). ▼

MUSIC



The Pansies return to their fun-and-frolics roots on their new CD on Alternative Tentacles, *Total Entertainment!*

Pansy Division

Arts cover

rocking *Total Entertainment!* album-release show last week at Cafe Du Nord, the band still delivers the hottest gay pop-rock on the planet.

The new CD, on the Alternative Tentacles label, returns the Pansies to their roots, giving audiences the fun and frolics they've come to expect, and in the process reversing the band's recent trend toward a more muted, serious tone.

"I know what the most popular song on the new album is going to be," said Ginoli shortly before the concert, at home in his Victorian flat in the Mission, and it's the one with the most provocative title: "He Whipped My Ass in Tennis (Then I Fucked His Ass in Bed)."

Sure enough, at the show, the song got people up on their toes. The crowd was dancing and reveling in the antics of Freeman, the show-off of the bunch, and enjoying the hilarity of the lyrics. The fact that the sheer silliness of the song got a huge audience response proves the band is moving in a popular direction.

Key shift

"When we did the last record, *Absurd Pop Song Romance* (Look-out, 1998), we really tried to shift gears," said Ginoli. "Though most of our albums have always had serious-minded songs alongside the humorous ones, they were a small percentage compared to the happier, funny ones. On the last album we switched that ratio. We thought it was a really commercial record, but it did come out at a time when the whole scene was sliding downhill."

When they started to go the serious route in the latest album, Patrick finally said he missed the old wacky humor, which was all the excuse Ginoli needed to whip out a song he'd been sitting on. When he played it for them, they flipped and loved it. It was a wonderfully ridiculous celebration of gay sexuality that could make people laugh and dance — just what the times seem to call for.

"When some people dismiss us as lightweight because we're funny," said Ginoli, "I think: I'm a really serious-minded person interested in politics and the state of the world, but I don't like preachy music. I think our songs have a political element, but it's not overt."

A case in point is the new album's song "No Protection," which addresses the barebacking

issue. As Ginoli noted, the ages in the band range from 29 to 43, "so we've got people in our band with different experiences with the AIDS crisis, but we're all safe-sex-oriented people who survived the plague years, all being negative, and it made me really sad and angry that people younger than me who hadn't been around to see

it, but some of the newer guys in the band wanted to be on the road less, so their ambitions changed direction.

"That was the time we said, well, we've got to do jobs," Ginoli said. "So between having jobs and people wanting to have outside musical outlets, and the reality of a commuting band member, it

'We call the album *'Total Entertainment!'* because we are an entertaining band, and we make good records that are fun to listen to, but we're always trying to find more diversity in our music.'

people die were acting this way. I tried to write a song about it that turned out to be this angry song that really would be no fun to play, and I thought, this really isn't what I want to do."

It was Freeman who would take the issue and run with it. He ended up writing a song, a fictional story about meeting someone he wanted to hook up with, but who doesn't want to use condoms. Ginoli polished up the lyrics, and they ended up having a safe-sex anthem that's fun and positive in tone without being a bummer.

"We call the album *Total Entertainment!* because we are an entertaining band, and we make good records that are fun to listen to," said Ginoli, "but we're always trying to find more diversity in our music. When Chris came up with the idea of 'No Protection,' he said he wanted this to be our dance song, our 'Heart of Glass,' so it still sounds like Pansy Division, but it has a dance beat to it. It sounds like there's a synthesizer going through it, but it's actually Patrick's guitar."

Ginoli thinks the label punk doesn't quite fit the band: "When I think of punk, I think of guys in black leather jackets and mohawks. That is not how punk began, but it's how punk ended up. I think we're a rock band, a guitar pop band with leanings towards punk."

However they define their genre, one fact remains consistent: It's tough to make a go of it economically. To make a living off the band, Pansy Division would have to tour about half the year. They did just that for a few years, and Ginoli in particular enjoyed

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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Mark Mardon

Jazz it up

When Paula West sings jazz, she recalls the greatest voices in the genre — Sarah Vaughan, Ella Fitzgerald, Billy Holiday and other legends. Not only is West on a par with these divas, she continually sets new standards for the profession. The one time I saw her live a few years back at The Plush Room, she breathed life into her material while maintaining the smoky demeanor of speakeasy times, when jazz was all about sex, men were into cigars, and taboos against sin were routinely ignored.

When West comes to The Herbst Theatre this Saturday, August 23, she'll be joined by one of the great living jazz/theatre artists, Chicago native Oscar Brown Jr., the composer and lyricist of such classic jazz works as "Straighten Up and Fly Right," "Dat Dere," "Afro Blue," and "Work Song." After an absence of 20 years from the recording scene, Brown released *Then and Now* (Weasel Disc) in 1995, followed by the re-release of his original Columbia recording *Sin and Soul...And Then Some* in 1996.

West says she's Brown's great admirer; she recorded his song "The Snake" and performed some of his other compositions, and respects his role in the profession. He's been recorded and performed by Max Roach, Joni Mitchell, Tony Bennett, Abbey Lincoln, Joe Williams, Nina Simone, Mel Torme and Sheila Jordan, among others.

Joining West and Brown for the show — which comes in advance of West's third consecutive fall season at New York's Algonquin Hotel, to be followed by an engagement with Jazz at Lincoln Center — will be Max Jazz recording artist Bruce Barth and his trio (Ugonna Okegwo on bass and Montez Coleman on drums).

Tickets for the 8 p.m. event are \$25-\$40 (\$55 with after-concert reception). Showtime: 8pm. Herbst Theatre is located in the War Memorial Bldg., 401 Van Ness Ave. For tickets, call 415-392-4400; online at tickets.com or cityboxoffice.com

Robert Henry Johnson & Lady Mem'fis

While on the topic of great female jazz vocalists, no one could be finer than San Francisco resident Lady Mem'fis, who while still in her teens rose to fame as a "Bluesy Belter" on Bourbon Street in New Orleans. She'll be performing "Duchess and the Dancer" in concert with her equally famous son, award-winning choreographer/dancer Robert Henry Johnson, this Friday and Saturday, August 22-23, 8 p.m., at the Buriel Clay Memorial Theater, located in the African American Art and Culture Complex at 762 Fulton St. (between Webster and Laguna).

The program will include two world premieres, starting with "She Sings," a piece with vocals by Lady Mem'fis and text by Johnson. It offers a dialogue between mother and son about the history of American music and how it affects their lives. Their collage of spoken word, movement and live music delves into Lady Mem'fis's childhood memories of the deep swamps of Louisiana.

Tickets for the show are \$20. Call 415-621-3778, ext. 2. ▼

52

Int'l G/L Aquatics Champs @ Avery Aquatic Center, Stanford University

More than 1000 Masters swimmers, water polo players, synchronized swimmers and divers representing 78 teams from 20 states and 12 countries will converge on the world-class Avery Aquatic Center at Stanford University on August 22 for three days of fun and competition as part of the 13th International Gay and Lesbian Aquatics Championships (IGLA 2003). The meet is hosted by the San Francisco Tsunami Swim club and Water Polo teams. The competition concludes on Sunday afternoon with the famous "Pink Flamingo" event in which teams compete for the top prize in performances that combine music, dance, costumes, props, synchronized swimming and diving. Admission to the competition and parking at the venue are free. Volunteers needed for serving poolside as timers, staffing information desks, etc. (email volunteers@igla2003.org). Info: www.igla2003.org

'Viva Variety 33' @ Most Holy Redeemer

Steve Murray hosts the 33rd edition of "Viva Variety," an eclectic selection of fine performers from dance, theatre, circus, comedy, spoken word and music. A benefit for Shanti. Tonight's lineup: Terese Taylor (music), Kitten on the Keys (music), Blake (comedy), Garrin Benfield (music), Amy Boyd (comedy), Shamey Cramer (vocalist), Alma Esperanza Cunningham Movement (dance), Velocity Circus' Bolong (martial arts dance), Julia Serano (spoken word) and Peggy L'Eggs (performance art). \$15 adv; \$18 door. 100 Diamond St. (at 18th St). Tix/info: 415-863-0741 ext. #2; www.makeliso-productions.org

'Spanked' @ New Conservatory Theatre Center

NCTC Pride Season 9 — *Landscape of Desire* presents *Spanked!* Written, performed, and co-produced with NCTC by Ian Mackinnon and Aaron Hartzel. Directed by Jacob Titus. It's hard to "beat" a play that uses spanking as a metaphor to embody the paradoxes of a sexual relationship, with its intertwined affection, lust and shame. While the physical act of spanking is at the core of the play, this nuanced work serves as an autobiographical portrait of the romance between its stars. \$15-\$20 (\$120-\$280 season tix). Aug. 22-Sept. 14, Wed-Sat, at 8pm. Matinees Aug. 24 & 31, Sept. 7 & 14, Sun. at 2pm. Tix/info: 861-8972; www.nctcsf.org

'Tic-Tac-Tarot' @ Magnet

Find out what the future holds for you from "Madame Midnight's Dirty Tarot," and while you're at Magnet, maybe play some games. Is love in your future, or just lots of sex? Who killed Colonel Mustard in the Library with the pipe? Beat someone at Backgammon. Meet someone new, or see someone from a new angle while playing Twister. Open to



Theatre of Yugen goes into exile with Alice Shikina's "Being on the Outside" at Noh Space. See Monday.

anyone who wants to get down and play. Free. 7-9pm. Magnet, 4122 18th St. Info: 581-1600; www.Magnetsf.org

Impact Theatre @ La Val's Subterranean, Berkeley

Impact Theatre, in residence at Berkeley's La Val's Subterranean Theatre, presents "Impact Briefs 6: Shock and Awe," directed by Joy Meads, the sixth installment of its smash-hit festival of short, comic plays. Starring Impact veterans Pete Caslavka and David Ballog, with newcomers Nina Breton, Ben Harris, Tunuvil Luv, and Matt Roberts. A mix of past Briefs favorites such as "Are You Gay?", "1-800-DEALER," "Who Hates the Flemish?" and "ACME Temporary Services," and new, sure-fire hits such as "It Happened One Day in the NRA," "The Hoard of the Rings," and "The Johnson Administration." Audience favorite Steven Klems returns (4 performances only, Aug. 22, 23, 28 & 29) to sing "Goin' to Burning Man" and "The Celibacy Song." \$15 gen'l, \$10 students. Thu, Fri & Sat thru Sept 27. 1834 Euclid, just north of the UC Berkeley campus. Tix/info: 510-464-4468; impacttheatre.com

Swing at 'Cafe Savoy' @ The Cafe

Queer Jitterbugs presents Queer Swing at the grand opening of "Cafe Savoy" at The Cafe. 6:30pm Basic lesson in East Coast Swing; 7pm intermediate fancy moves lesson; 7:30-9pm dancing to classic swing music by two DJs. Free (lesson package \$5 to \$10 donation). 2369 Market St. (at Castro). Info: 415-305-8242; www.queerjitterbugs.com

'Leather/Levi Weekend' @ Saratoga Springs Resort

The organizing team of the "3rd Annual Leather/Levi Weekend" (LLW) invites all members of the gay/lesbian, leather/levi, biker and s/m communities to join in a weekend that celebrates common bonds as well as diversity. Weekend features use of a campsite (cabins & bunks extra), five catered meals, pool & hot tub, hosted bar,

ture imagery as the medium for his collage and montage work. After studying fine art in Italy in the late sixties, Smith returned to an almost unrecognizable America. "Our country had become lazy," he says, "and the anger of the sixties had all but worn off, civil liberties were on the decline and no one seemed to care." The punk era provided Smith a receptive audience via "Fallout," a xeroxed zine he published with Jayed Scott, that caught the eye of Dead Kennedys front man Jello Biafra. This began a lasting relationship involving numerous album covers and global speaking tours. Free. 6-10pm. Show runs through September 19 (open 11am-11pm Tue-Fri, and 11am-5pm on Saturdays). Info: www.varnishfineart.com

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'Sistahs Steppin' In Pride 2003 March' @ Lake Merritt, Oakland

This year as last, hundreds of women will march around Lake Merritt in celebration of the breadth and diversity of the East Bay's lesbian and bisexual community. Share the enthusiasm, pride and positive energy of this herstorical event. The march culminates at a festival (1pm) at Snow Park (Harrison & 20th St., Oakland). Meet at Lake Merritt at El Embarcadero and Grand Ave. Free. Info: 510-551-8330; www.SistahsSteppin.org

'Splish' @ Studio Z

Come celebrate the 2003 International Gay and Lesbian Aquatics Championships with the San Francisco Tsunami Polo Team at Studio Z! More than 800 swimmers and 250 water polo players from around-the-world will be in town for the 2003 International Gay and Lesbian Aquatics Championships to be held at the world-class Avery Aquatic Center at Stanford University in Palo Alto. Transnashack diva Hekina will be your hostess for the evening along w/ DJs Ryan Bazeley and Smooove. All proceeds go to benefit IGLA 2003, Shanti and the SF LGBT Community Center. \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. 10pm-2am (following the Hosted Din-

ners). Studio Z, 314 11th St. Info/tix: 1-415-252-7666.

'Celebrate Survival' @ The Center

"Celebrate Survival," a benefit for hate crime victims Mariah and Yvette. Fierce performances by: brOTHeRs, Meliza Banales, Nafis, Mario Balcita, Lady Tragik, Transcendence Gospel Choir, and Loco Bloco. Event Sponsors: Community United Against Violence (CUAV), National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR), & Proyecto ContraSIDA Por Vida (PCPV). All Welcome! \$5-\$10 sliding (NOTAFLOF). 6-8pm. Cerebral Room, SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. Info: emailcelebratesurvival@yahoo.com

'Kilt' @ NCTC

Opening night: NCTC Pride Season 9 — *Landscape of Desire* presents the West Coast Premiere of the romantic comedy *Kilt*, by Jonathan Wilson. Directed by Stephen Rupsch (PINS). It's the story of a mother and son coming to know themselves and how to love each other. The traditional apparel of Scottish males is the link that fuses past and present. In the past, the kilt belonged to a young Glaswegian soldier. In the present, it has become the property of that soldier's grandson who wears it as a gimmick to spice up his performances as "Tartan Tom," an exotic dancer at a gay bar. When the old soldier dies, mother and son must journey to Scotland for final farewells and reconciliations. \$18-\$38. Aug. 23-Oct. 12, Wed.-Sat. at 8pm. 25 Van Ness Ave. (at Market). Tix/info: 861-8972; www.nctcsf.org

'ManLady' @ NCTC

Opening night: NCTC Pride Season 9 — *Landscape of Desire* presents *ManLady*. Written and performed by George Weiss Vando. Directed by Sue Hamilton. Produced in association with SHE Productions. Direct from a smash engagement in LA, *ManLady* is an investigation of gender and identity, breaking down queer misogyny from inside out and offering a new image of masculinity. A young boy grows up, puts on heels, falls in love and is rejected. In the end he accepts himself and redefines what it is to be a ManLady. The show layers movement, poetry and narrative story-



Jazz great Paula West joins with Oscar Brown Jr. and the Bruce Barth Trio for a special concert this Saturday at Herbst Theatre. See "Calendare" for details.

telling in order to confess a deeply personal journey. \$18-\$28. Aug. 23-Sept. 7, Wed.-Sat. at 8pm. Matinees Aug. 24 & 31, Sept. 7, Sun. at 2pm.

'Land Rites'

@ **Galería de la Raza**

Opening reception: "Land Rites," featuring seven emerging artists of (Re)Generation whose works comprise a range of direct and indirect studies of land, ritual and belonging in Latino cultures. Varying in both materials and approach, the art is informed by experiences of migration, colonization, globalization, poverty and spirituality. Free. 7-10pm. Exhibition runs thru Oct. 25. Galería de la Raza, 2857 24th St. Info: 826-8009; galeriadelaraza.org

'Reagan Louie: Sex in Asia' @ SFMOMA

Opening: The SF Museum of Modern Art unveils "Reagan Louie: Sex in Asia," an exhibition of the artist's large-scale color photographs representing his candid and complex study of the Asian sex industry. Louie, a professor of photography at the SF Art Institute, spent six years exploring the Asian sex trade, photographing the day-to-day lives of hundreds of women and girls in several countries who, either by choice or necessity, prostitute themselves. \$10 gen'l; \$7 seniors; \$6 students; SFMOMA members/children free. Daily (except Wed.) 11am-6pm (till 9pm Thu.). Thru Jan. 11, 2004. 151 Third St. Info: 357-4000; sfmoma.org

'Pajama Rama' @ EROS

Come to EROS for sex, fun, and the "Pajama Rama" party, benefiting Magnet, the new gay men's community health center in the Castro. EROS will be open late Saturday night/early Sunday morning so you can play in or out of your PJs. Either way, come in and play! Enter with a Magnet ticket and you pay the early-bird price of \$10 and the cost of your admission goes directly to Magnet. A six-month membership of \$10 is required, unless you already have one. Pick up your ticket at Magnet at 4122-18th Street, Wednesday-Friday from 3-9 pm, or Saturday from 12-6 pm. The party starts at midnight and goes until 8 am on Saturday, August 23. EROS is located at 2051 Market Street. For information call EROS at (415) 864-3767, or Magnet at (415) 581-1600. Check out magnetsf.org.

'Octopussy' @ Space 550

The South Bay's largest lesbian dance party invades SF when "Octopussy" presents "Let's Get Soaking Wet," with music to make you sweat on three dance floors. Featuring DJs Jorge Teres (hip hop), Chili D (salsa & Latin), and Eclat (old-school classics). Guest go-gos from LA plush the "Octopussy" dancers. \$15. 10pm-3:30am. 550 Barnevel (off Bayshore). Info: Chili D hotline: 415-820-1413.

Som'ma

@ **Noe Valley Ministry**
Live At Noe Valley Ministry: Som'ma presents an evening of classical Persian music & modal Jazz improvisations. Som'ma is named after an intoxicating beverage used as an offering to the Hindu gods and consumed by participants in Vedic ritual sacrifices. In Farsi (Persian) it also means



Impact Theatre, in residence at Berkeley's La Val's Subterranean Theatre, explodes minds with "Impact Briefs 6: Shock and Awe." See Friday.

listening to music, singing and chanting to attain a state of religious emotion and ecstasy. Featuring: Dr. Lloyd Miller (Koroush Ali Khan), one of the first jazz innovators interested in Eastern music since the 50's; Ramin Zoufounoun, born to a family of musicians in Tehran, whose strength is in improvisation on the Persian-tuned piano, and the tar; Shirzad Sharif, also born to an acclaimed musical family in Iran, who studied the Tonbak under the strict supervision of the renowned Ostad Bahman Rajabi; Mahour Mellat Parast, born in 1979 in Iran, where his father was a musician, composer and a player of Tar, Setar, Piano and Turkish Tar; Mark Deutsch, a visionary artist with a background in non-linear mathematics, sacred systems and cosmology, and a classically trained bassist who has developed a new instrument: The Bazantar — a five-string acoustic bass fitted with an additional 29 sympathetic strings and four drone strings; and Noah Waldman, a graduate of Boston's Berklee College of Music. \$15. 7pm. 1021 Sanchez St. (@ 23rd St.). Info: www.tonbak.info

Mon

QComedy @ The Center

QComedy presents a special gay sketch comedy and improv night hosted by Karen Ripley, who is both a standup comedian and an improv performer and teacher. Appearing on the stage are improv group Laughingstock, sketch troupe Plethora, sketch troupe Uphill Both Ways, improv from Thoroughly Modern Nellies, and 2G00D4U, the World's First All-Girl Boy Band. \$8-\$15 sliding (NO-TAFLOF). 7:30pm reception; 8pm show. SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Tix/info: 856-5633; www.Qcomedy.com

'Being on the Outside' @ Noh Space

Theatre of Yugen's monthly series showcasing experimental and Asian-based performing artists presents "Being on the Outside," a collection of monologues by Bay Area Playwrights, conceived and directed by Alice Shikina. The pieces offer a journey into the landscape of the exiled, focusing on people who feel misunderstood and are somehow ostracized from society. Presenting Billy by Alice Shikina; Holding by Margery Kreitman; Yellow Hair in a Fishbowl by Carl Thelin; Prognosis by Marilyn Crier Hughes;

In Myron's Defense by Melinda Fogle; All Numbers Are Approximate by Tony Pisculli; Channel Surfing by Aioise Stratford; Job Interview by Seana Magee; American Dream by Melissa Klein; and Lily by Jane Chen. \$10-\$15 sliding. 8pm. Also on Tue., Aug. 26. Noh Space, 2840 Mariposa St. (at Florida St.). Tix/info: 621-7978; theatrefyugen.org

Tue

Kea Blackhurst

@ **The Plush Room**

Ethel Merman fans get a thrill for two weeks only as the great Kea Blackhurst presents "Everything the Traffic Will Allow: The Songs and Sassy of Ethel Merman," offering the quintessential music and magic of Broadway's best performer. Accompanied by Michael Rice and The Pocket Change Trio, Blackhurst presents highlights from one of the greatest bodies of show music ever written for a single performer. Merman sang the songs of George & Ira Gershwin, Cole Porter, Irving Berlin, Julie Styne, Stephen Sondheim and Jerry Herman, among others. Blackhurst's thrilling renditions have been presented to great acclaim throughout the U.S. and in London. \$25 + 2-drink minimum. 8pm Wed.-Sat.; 3pm Sun. Thru Sept. 7. York Hotel, 940 Sutter St. (btwn Leavenworth & Hyde). Tix/info: 885-2800.

Wed

Razzle-Dazzle Gay Gay Matinée @ The Center

The Center's Razzle-Dazzle Gay Matinée/Movie Night present a double feature: Chicago, the sing-along showings (4pm & 8pm); and Hedwig and the Angry Inch (6pm). Chicago follows Roxie Hart (Renée Zellweger) who murders her lover in a jealous rage and finds notoriety in prison. Hedwig is the tranny cult rock musical and transcendent spiritual journey of an iconic girly-boy rocker from East Berlin who endures a botched sex-change operation. Cold drinks, hot popcorn, hotter flicks every last Wednesday of the month. Free admission for Center members. No one will be turned away for lack of funds, but guests are invited to become members or make a donation. Limited seating, come early! Captioned for the deaf and hard of hearing. Free childwatch at Matinee. 1800

Market St. SF. Info: 415/865-5555; email gayflick@yahoo.com for monthly program announcements.

'Revealing Influences' @ Museum of Craft & Folk Art

Opening reception: In celebration of its 20th anniversary, the Museum of Craft & Folk Art presents "Revealing Influences," a group exhibition by 20 contemporary Bay Area craft and folk artists, co-curator by Miriam de Uriarte and Rachel Osajima. This is MOCA's first exhibition to treat craft and folk art themes as a unified concept and to demonstrate their influence on today's artists. 5:30-6:30pm members only; 6:30-8pm open to gen'l public. Fort Mason Center, Bldg. A. Info: 775-0991; www.mocfa.org

Thu

'Sleeping With Straight Men'

@ **Theatre Rhinoceros**

Theatre Rhinoceros with Ken Archibald present Dan Renzi (of MTV's "Real World") in *Sleeping With Straight Men*, written and directed by Ronnie Larsen, who sets his sites on the notorious Jenny Jones case. This explicit play explores issues of desire and queer identity in a time of talk shows and sensationalism. \$20-\$30. Wed.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. eves 7pm; Sun mats 3pm. 2926 16th St. (at Mission & So. Van Ness). Tix/info: 861-5079.

Floating Corpses

@ **The Eagle Tavern**

Thursday Night Live at The Eagle Tavern presents hot rock 'n' roll with Venus Bleeding, Floating Corpses (CD release party), and Nebucadnezzar. 398 12th St. Info: 626-0880; www.sfeagle.com

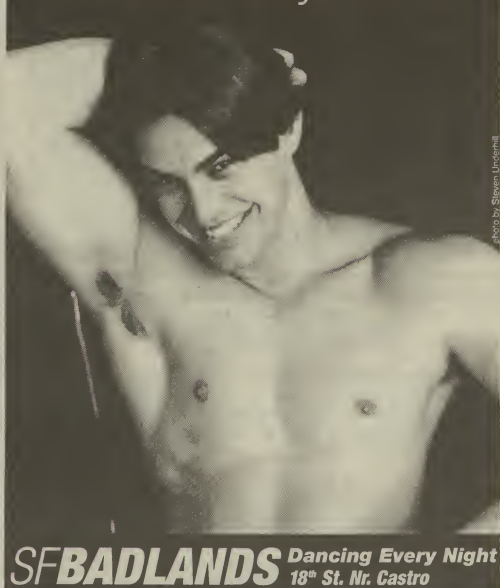
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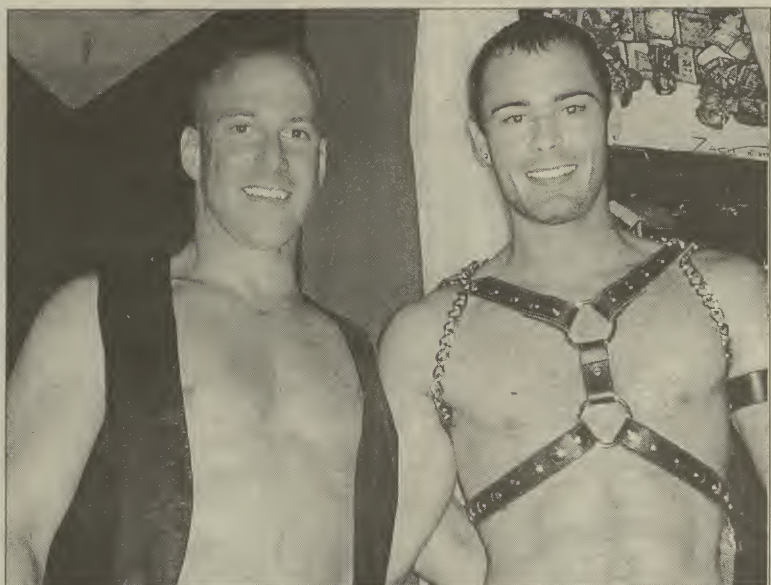


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Damon Holzum, right, was chosen Mr. Powerhouse Leather 2004 last Saturday night, August 16. He shared his triumph with runner-up Stafford Hemmer. Their scores were so close, both will be sponsored in the Mr. SF Leather 2004 contest.

More titles, more sashes

by Mister Marcus

As the date draws nearer for the International Leather Sir/boy contest (formerly International Mr. Drummer and Drummer boy) in St. Petersburg, Florida, the weekend of October 9-12, the regional contests and other title events have accelerated.

Last weekend, the Southern California Leather Sir/boy contests were held in San Diego. In San Francisco, Mr. Hayes Valley Leather 2004 and Mr. Powerhouse Leather 2004 contests were held within seven days of each other.

Next weekend, the Northwest Leather Sir/boy contests will be held in Seattle, and in Indianapolis, the Great Lakes Leather Sir/boy competitions will be held, including three other titles. With leather personalities dashing hither and yon to attend all these events, no one can accuse leather folks of not contributing to the economy of this country.

On Saturday, August 9, Mike Dumont stepped aside from his Mr. Hayes Valley Leather 2003 title at Marlena's Bar, and the sash/medal was passed on to Darryl Jensen.

On Saturday, August 16, Troy Anicete stepped aside from his Mr. Powerhouse Leather 2003 title, and with the two contestants vying for the title, the points were so close, the Powerhouse management announced that both would be sponsored by that bar in the Mr. SF Leather 2004 competition. Thus, Damon Holzum got the title, and Stafford Hemmer will also be in the running.

The Loading Dock will stage their first-ever Mr. Loading Dock Leather 2004 contest on Wednesday, August 27. And Mr. Daddy's Leather 2004 will take place at that var on Tuesday, September 9. Details to be announced.

In San Diego, former Int'l. Mr. Drummer Graylin Thornton sponsored the Southern California Leather Sir/boy competition at the Hole, and when the tallies were done, Mike Russell was cho-

sen Southern California Leather Sir, and "Boy Randy" of Palm Springs was named So. Cal. Leather boy. They say master of ceremonies Tom Dickerson (Mr. San Diego Leather 2002) did an "excellent" job — and you know how stingy Graylin can be with compliments!

Missing sashes

Another sash — The SF Leather Daddy's Boy — is missing, and whether it was deliberately stolen or kept for safekeeping by a good Samaritan, it is a sash that is handed down year after year to the winner and is frantically needed for the ceremony/contest taking place on Sunday, August 31st at the Eagle Tavern.

If you have any info on this situation, please email to: SFLeatherDaddyXX@aol.com.

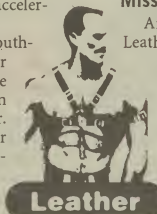
Why would anyone want to have a title sash that belongs to someone else? What is to be

gained? You could never wear it in public, and the sash itself has value only to the person to whom it was given. Even so, IML 92 Lenny Broberg was victimized during his title year when someone broke into his garage and took his sash. Whoever took it had no honor.

Odds 'n' ends

If you attended IML 2003 in Chicago last May, you may recall that the winner, John Pandal, received a Harley-Davidson bike and he is offering it up for auction. You can get all the details of how get into the action by surfing to: www.iml2003.com and then clicking on "Being IML." Proceeds from the raffle will go to a charity of John's choice. You read it here first!

Also, for those of you who are interested in such news, know that the International Master/slave title contests have been moved to take place the same weekend as Ms. World Leather 2004 in Dallas so it should be hopping there in 2004. ▼



On Saturday, August 9, Mike Dumont (far left) stepped aside for his successor, Darryl Jensen, Mr. Hayes Valley Leather 2004. With them for the festivities was Mr. SF Leather Troy Anicete. Darryl advances to compete for the Mr. SF Leather 2004 title in September.

POLKSTRASSE

The more things change

by Sweet Lips

Yet another Polk Gulch gay bar has closed its doors — the venerable Hob Nob at 700 Geary St. at Leavenworth. I guess their lease ran out. I understand that Ed Scott is looking for a new location, possibly on Polk Street, where of course things are looking up, with plenty of new clubs catering to classy clientele.

My good friend Bart Dreyer and I were having dinner at another friend's house and he told me that he met this interesting woman named Maggie, and I asked if he meant Maggie Paige, which he did indeed, and he wanted to know how I knew this fascinating person. Well, we all

remember Maggie for her piano playing and singing of all the Noel Coward songs at Peter Alioto's Arbordale in Sausalito (later to become the Sausalito Inn). I was manager of the bar and restaurant, and Maggie kept the people highly entertained during her stay there. She also played in many other clubs in San Francisco and became very popular. I hadn't heard from her in a long while, and it's nice to know she's still charming new admirers.

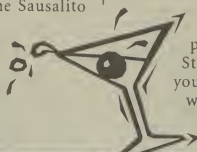
Don't forget I am back working Sunday through Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Club Rendez-

Vous, at 1312 Polk St. (at Bush), where much of the hottest gay action on Polk Street takes place.

Coming up this Thursday, August 28, at 9 p.m., Club RV will be presenting "Amateur Strip Night," which is your chance to show what stuff you're made of. Join other hot

guys in the talent line-up, and get a chance to win cash prizes! No, I'm not entering myself, though I know I'd give the young guys some stiff competition!

Belated birthday greetings to Greta Grass and Kenny Allison! They celebrated last Thursday, August 15. ▼



Cocktail Hour

An offer we can refuse

Gay hitmen in 'Friends & Family' on DVD

by David Lamble

I guess it had to come to this: gay Mafia hitmen. As they appear on the box of *Friends & Family* (Wolfe Video), Greg Lauren (*The Young and the Restless*) and Christopher Gartin (*Danielle Steele's Changes*) look like they belong on a wedding cake, although not the same cake. Before Stonewall, when mob guys ran the majority of gay bars in New York, the notion of two men doubling as lovers and button men — in other words, representing two despised minority groups, each possessing diametrically opposed values — might have had some kinky appeal. The Argentine crime caper *Burnt Money* got quite a bit of sizzle out of two gangster loverboys who hit a bump in the sack before they regain their edge in a massive shoot-out with an army of cops. The Polish brothers had a considerable amount of deadpan fun as Siamese twins in *Twin Falls, Idaho*. Just think, they could have been gay Mafia lover Siamese twins.

Back before the collapse of the twin towers, some producers who claim a link to *Gods and Monsters* persuaded a motley cast hailing from a much better class of movies (*The French Connection*



Greg Lauren, Christopher Gartin

and *Kissing Jessica Stein*) to play a mob family. The mob's principle muscle are two guys who tell their biological families that they're in the catering business. The nearest connection Stephen and Danny have to food service is a witless scene where they force-feed a longneck bottle of Budweiser to an opera singer who's late on his gambling debts. Later, the boys microwave two cans of evaporat-

ed milk (it's a mark of this film's taste that they don't attempt this Jackass stunt with a poodle).

As for bodily fluids exchanged, there's no fake blood, and just a bit of misapplied eyeliner. A typical scene has weight-challenged mob guys asking a portly cop where to pick up drag queens in the Village. In a kind of switch on *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy*, a couple of hetero hoodlums are shown to have a much better sense of decor and cuisine.

A few years back, Tony Vitale produced a witty caper pairing a clueless Italian Stallion with a hip, disgruntled, out-of-work gay actor. *Kiss Me Guido* rubbed the gay and gangster worlds' most risible traits up against each other, and as a special bonus gave us Craig Chester (in Dayglo Na-Na club drag) as the Eve Arden-like friend whose classified ad prank introduces the odd couple. The makers of *Friends & Family* haven't a comic bone in their bodies, and all they offer in the way of headlines is Tony LoBianco (the drug-buying newsstand guy in *French Connection*).

The most brazen features in this DVD package are a director's commentary and "outtakes." Even in the dog days of summer, *Friends & Family* is a hot pick (with a bullet) for your Labor Day yard sale. ▼

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Weekend, August 22-24

Northwest Leather Sir/boy in Seattle all weekend. For details, email to: mssurreal1@aol.com.

Great Lakes Leather Alliance in Indianapolis, Indiana with five contests including Great Lakes Leather Sir/boy. Info@greatlakesleather.com.

2003 Leather/Levi Weekend in Saratoga Springs, California. It is sold out and over 200 people will attend this one.

Sunday, August 24

Meet and greet the new Northern California Leather Sir Brian Williams and Leather boy Arturo Crespo, from 1800-2100 at the Loading Dock, with special guests hosting.

Wednesday, August 27

Leather Buddies at 933 Harrison. You know they have a strict dress code, so don't even try! For info: 777-HEAD

The first ever Mr. Loading Dock Leather 2004 competition at that bar at 2000, with Ray Tilton producing. Applications available at the bar.

Friday, August 29

At the Russian River Eagle in Guerneville, RRiv. Leather Boy Roger Hunt hosts "A Cock ring Auction" to benefit the Sonoma County AEF, with successful bidders taking them off a plethora of titled leather men.

Sunday, August 31

SF Leather Daddy's Boy contest at the Eagle Tavern, \$8 beer/soda bust. Entertainment. Food. Will Brunner steps aside for a successor today. Title Sash will be awarded if found.

Sunday, September 7

Keith Folger, Mama's Leather Man, hosts a beer/soda bust at the Loading Dock, 1800 to 2100, to benefit MAGNET.

Tuesday, September 9

Mr. Daddy's Leather 2004 contest at Daddy's Bag at 2000, the winner to compete at Mr. SF Leather 2004 the night before Folsom St. Fair.

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PARTING GLANCES

"Caught In Castro"

On July 12th before 8pm, I felt your glance and was then caught in it as we crossed 16th and Noe on Market (North side). You were heading East and I West. You have short, dark blond hair; fair, smooth & rasy complexion; 5'10"-11 medium build, wearing green I think and maybe shorts to knees. I was tanned, dark balding hair, goatee, wearing dark green shirt and pants, maybe wearing metal-rimmed glasses. I was crossing street with two female friends (you may have seen).... We passed each other on each other's left. Would really like the opportunity to meet. I wanted to turn and approach you, but it felt too rushed and awkward there. Please respond if you think it may be you. ☎ 72687

Circle J - Saturday July 12th!
Had a great time meeting and talking. I couldn't stay for Sunday and couldn't get you in my luggage but I can come back. Call me. Big guy from LV. ☎ 72688

37 Bus Stop Castro Market 7/20
You dressed in purple tank top & olive shorts. We talked about Great July weather. You went to University of Oregon. My bus came. Call me! ☎ 72689

"Ken Berger Of Montreal"
Barhopping in Seattle call John. ☎ 72690

Russian River Area ISO
Wayne we used to be roommates and you worked at Sweets Restaurant. Also Richard Lanzendorfer and other old friends. I'm in Hawaii. Please contact me, Craig Bailey. Leave phone and address. ☎ 72699

Judah Muni 7/25
Thanks for the wave when you got off at Sunset. You: K&ED jacket. Me: Denim shirts. Let's meet and talk. ☎ 72700

"Jeff, Where Are You?"
We got together a month ago, partied etc. and I love your thick dick. Please call me so we can get together again. ☎ 72705

Diamond Heights Safeway 7/29
You: green shirt, blue eyes, chicken pox, milano cookies, milk for dinner. Me: grey polar-fleece, green eyes, tortilla chips, salsa, pepsi as snacks for friends. How about dining... together? ☎ 72706

I Want You To Be My Baby...
We met outside Badlands on Saturday. We kissed and fireworks went off in my heart. I didn't believe in love at first sight until I met you. Talk to me stoopid. Angel. ☎ 72714

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

"Redhead"
SWM, 5'10", 170#, ex-navy. Mobile home owner. Enjoys drumming, tennis & chess. Seek relationship with female. ☎ 72677

~Seeking Relationship~
GJM 50 near Lake Merritt, seeking drinking, hanging out buddy. Like films, stage, food, baseball, drinking etc. Not a sex ad. Age, size, race, looks unimportant. Urgently need male companionship. ☎ 72678

Oral Expert For Hung Guys!
I'm hung and I'm seeking to service guys who hung "9" or "10" inches, or more. We can party and watch video's. ☎ 72691

Hung Hispanic Guys Wanted!
If you're Hispanic and hung "8", "9", or "10" inches or more, call me to get serviced, party, watch video's, etc. ☎ 72692

Butt Son Seeks SR LTHR Daddy
Blond, in-shape, 45-y/o HIV-(ss) son/bot will service hung, 60+ lthr top/dad. Son into butt play, boot worship, w/s&m, b/d... whatever turns you on! ☎ 72693

"Stroking For Hours"
Seeking guys for, j.o., cock, worship. Watch video's, kick back, 69, party. Let's get together and have some fun. Hung A+. ☎ 72694

Mulatto Guy Sexy Light-Skinned
Real good looking, educated, intelligent. Looking for someone for a relationship, fun, sex, etc. ☎ 72707

GAM In Stockton Sks Honest LTR
GAM, 37, 5'7", 155lbs looking for sensitive, straightlacking male. You: honest caring, weight and height proportionate in your 40's. Prefer someone that is uncomplicated with sense of humor. ☎ 72701

Bald, But Cute GWM 42
5'10", 165 buzzcut c/n shvn, glasses, HIV- sense of humor & sweet prof. Sks strong, masculine GM, like hanging out at home, food, art, movies, entertainment, beaches, drives, & sex! Very affectionate too! ☎ 72702

WM 48, 6, 165lbs, Dark Hair
ISO M over 35 who enjoy deep kissing, affection, oral pleasures. Husky/heavyst, bearded, rustic-looking, liberal views, loners a plus. Smoking ok but no drugs or gay scene. ☎ 72708

"Seeking Romance"
GJM 50 near Lake Merritt, seeking drinking, hanging out buddy. Like films, stage, food, baseball, drinking, etc. Not a sex ad. Age, size, race, looks unimportant. Urgently need male companionship. ☎ 72715

Where've All The Cowboys Gone!
ISO M 39/6'5.0lbs. Healthy HIV+ ISO slender GM for ltr. Must be honest, true, and need a lot of love. Cause I have a lot to give to the right guy! ☎ 72716

Good Looking GWM 36
GWM CMT looking for Latino or Asian for ltr. I am HIV- disease free. I enjoy movies, the beach dancing, holding hands, let's talk. ☎ 72717

"Males"
Latinos, Asians, Middle Eastern, mixed race a plus, 18-30, HIV-, good teeth, slim or muscle bound, nice swollen nipples, nice round butt. GJM, 52, 208, ch 50" HIV-, goodlooking. ☎ 72718

"Models"
I design mens under garments, need someone who can understand my work. Do you have the body and mind I need? 18-30, Latino, Asians, mixed race, muscle bound. ☎ 72719

Brown Sugar Latin Guy 36 Yrs.
Nice Latin boy 36 yrs old 5'8", 155 masculine nice slim muscular body. Versatile. You- Latin or White versatile size unimportant. Under 160lbs. No drugs. For relationship call. ☎ 72720

SEEKING ADVENTURE

"Adventure"
GJM into heavy, intense j/o, d/t, c/b worship/partying, your place, PM only. Age, size, race, looks should be unimportant to both of us. ☎ 72679

Seeking Adventure!
GJM into heavy j/o, d/t, c/b worship, drinking/partying, your place, PM only. Age, size, race, looks should be unimportant to both of us. ☎ 72680

Hung, Black Oakland Gent, 49
Seeks a mature, masculine oral expert leather clean shaven or moustache only to relieve me late afternoons or late evenings. Direct contact phone required. I'm 5'9", 180, balding, moustache. ☎ 72681

Spank Your Butt
Hot, masculine top, 38, 5'11", 175lbs seeks well-built bottom with nice round ass for over the knee spanking, role playing and plowing your ass. ☎ 72682

This Guy Sucks!
And wants your dick in my mouth. Nice looking GW, senior with no teeth. Seeking straight, bi or GW guys. ☎ 72683

Pool Boy Wanted
Couple GLM 45 225, GWM 40 165, seek hot pool boy. We are goodlooking, hot, HIV-, fun, you be GWM 21-35, horny, fun, safe blond+, pool, hotub. Eastbay. ☎ 72684

Hispanic Lover Man
(Oh where can you be?) I'm looking for the right Hispanic guy for a relationship, etc. If hung A+. Call me. ☎ 72695

Interested In Meeting #72660
51 yr old affectionate top- GWM 6'3", 175 HIV- Let's talk. ☎ 72696

Spiritual Warrior Soulmate
Seeking GAM/GHM. We are on a spiritual path and have a zest for life. N/S, N/O, any age. I'm a young 61 yo sober Unitarian Buddhist, 5'10", 175#. ☎ 72697

Italian Guys!

You don't know what you're missing until you've met me. I can give you a great relationship and really fun times. ☎ 72698

"Boish Asian"

Seeking smooth muscular gym toned White male to massage, jerk off and oral service on a regular basis. Blond a plus. ☎ 72709

Straight White Men!

You are my business. Let's get together to party, watch videos, have sex, or a relationship. If hung A+. Call me. ☎ 72710

Spank My Butt & Plow My Ass!
Hot, masculine submissive bottom with nice round ass, tight virgin hole, deep throat, young 46, 5'11", 165, shaved head, goatee, runner, needs discipline, "Sir". ☎ 72711

"Adventure"

GJM into heavy, intense j/o, d/t, c/b worship, oral, drinking/partying, your place. PM only. Age, size, race, looks should be unimportant to both of us. ☎ 72714

"Shut-Up And Ride"

WM 38, 5'10", 190lb. blond/blue muscular top wants good looking men and/or women to screw call anytime. ☎ 72715

Seeking Senior Top 70 Or Older
Novice submissive 60 needs hard face pounding with facial cum bath. Make me your on-call fuck face cum smeared slave always there when you're feeling horny. ☎ 72716

Blk Top Dominant Sks Bttm Boy
6'2" 225lb, 39yr old total masculine top HIV-, seeks total submissive btm to plow deep and hard. Fun! ☎ 72717

SWM 63yrs. 175lbs
Seeking SWM 50-65, must be clean & discreet MWM ok. ☎ 72718

LESBIAN

Respond Code 3!

GW 44 ISO GWF 35-50 who works in Law Enforcement or Public Safety for friendship, quality conversation maybe more. I live in Southern Ca. Love to travel. ☎ 72685

FETISHES

Seeking Fetish
Novice/curious nudist (?) preferably but not mandatory, hairy and hung for heavy, intense j/o, dirty talk, cock worship, partying buddy desired. Some oral ok but mostly j/o, etc. Your place, PM preferred. Not into with another man w/o the presence of performing in anal/oral manner. ☎ 72686

Your Butt, My Face
Horny uncut redhead gives rimming service. ☎ 72703

ISO Serious Nipple Workout Buddy
48yr, GWM stocky, 220#, brn/brn salt & pepper goatee, lat's piercing, smoker! I'm a serious nip pig with huge erect nips ISO super mass, dominant nip pig for wkout sessions & growth in mind serious smoker A+. Please call. ☎ 72704

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Drag Queens Threesome Ravish
Me: JC. Bi. Chicano male. 55yrs old. ISO drag queens very femme, cigar-smokers, 69, suck, 21-30 only, black nylons, tight ass, drug-free. ☎ 72713

"Stroking For Hours"
Seeking masculine/average guy for heavy, intense j/o, dirty talk, cock worship. Drinking/partying buddy desired. Some oral OK. Your place, PM only. Not into toys, videos, groups, anal. Long partying scenes only. ☎ 72719

Dominant Leather Top
Seeks in shape boys 18-38 for hot B&D. Top: 6'1", 160, 39 worked out. HIV-. East Bay. ☎ 72780

"Bondage Hobo"
Homeless man available for bondage scenes, vanilla nice too! Big shoulders, full beard, hairy chest, hazel eyes, freckles, 136lb. Your place, my mat? ☎ 72781

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
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Horny 23 yo bottom/smooth 5'7"

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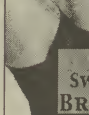
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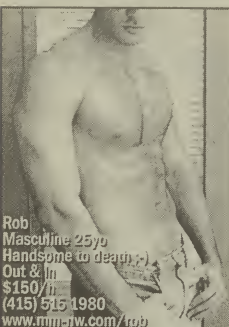
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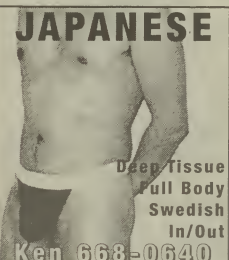


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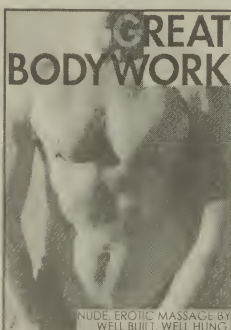
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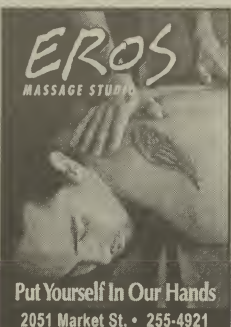
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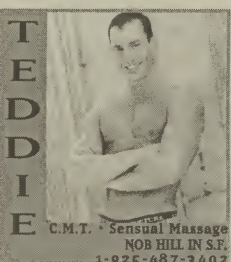
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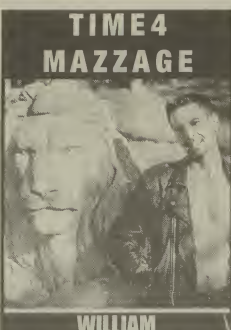
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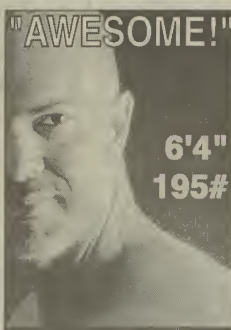
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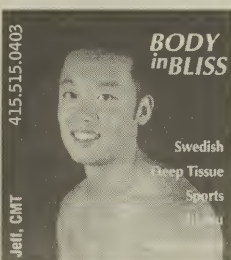


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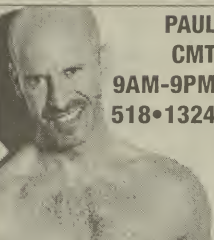
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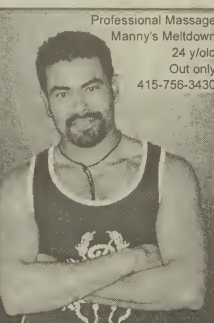


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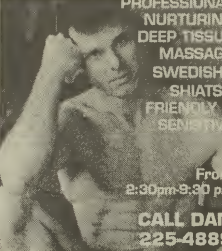
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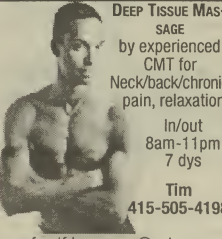
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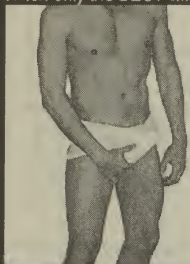
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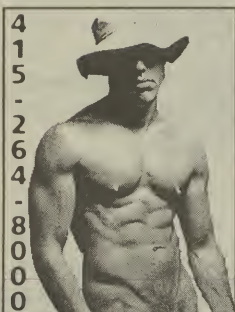
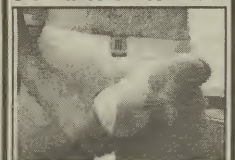
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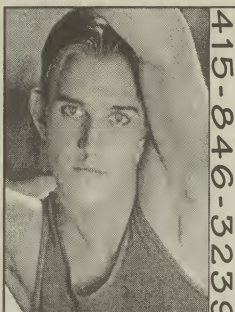
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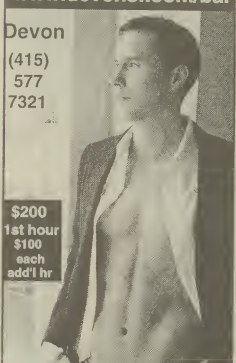
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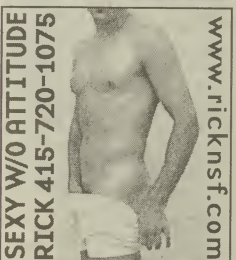
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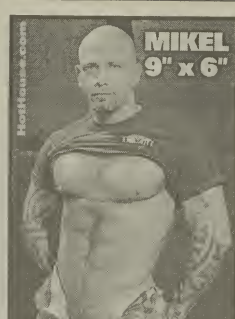
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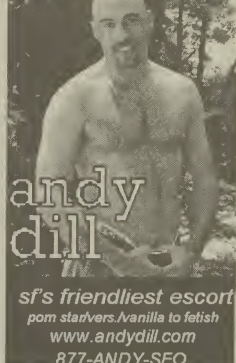
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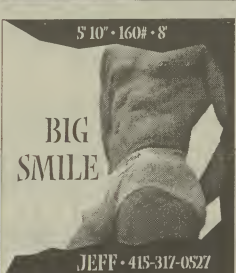
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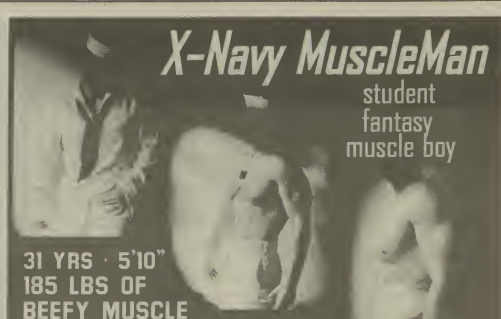
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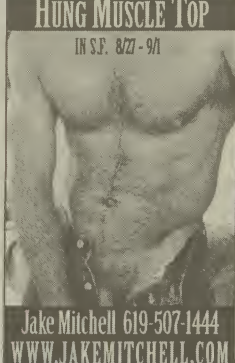
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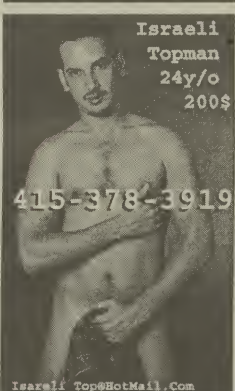
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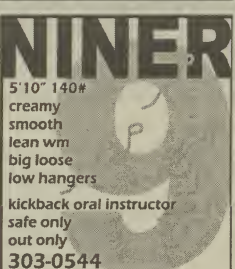
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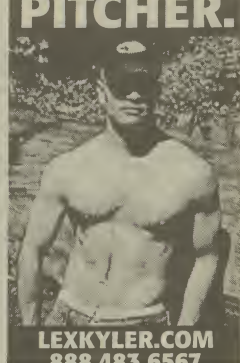
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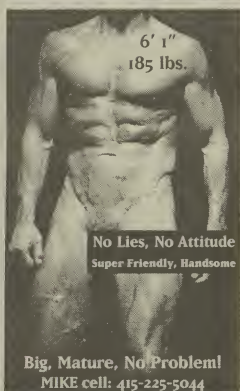
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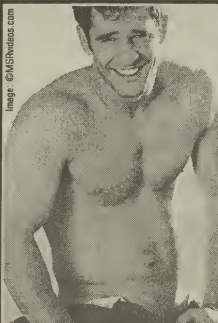
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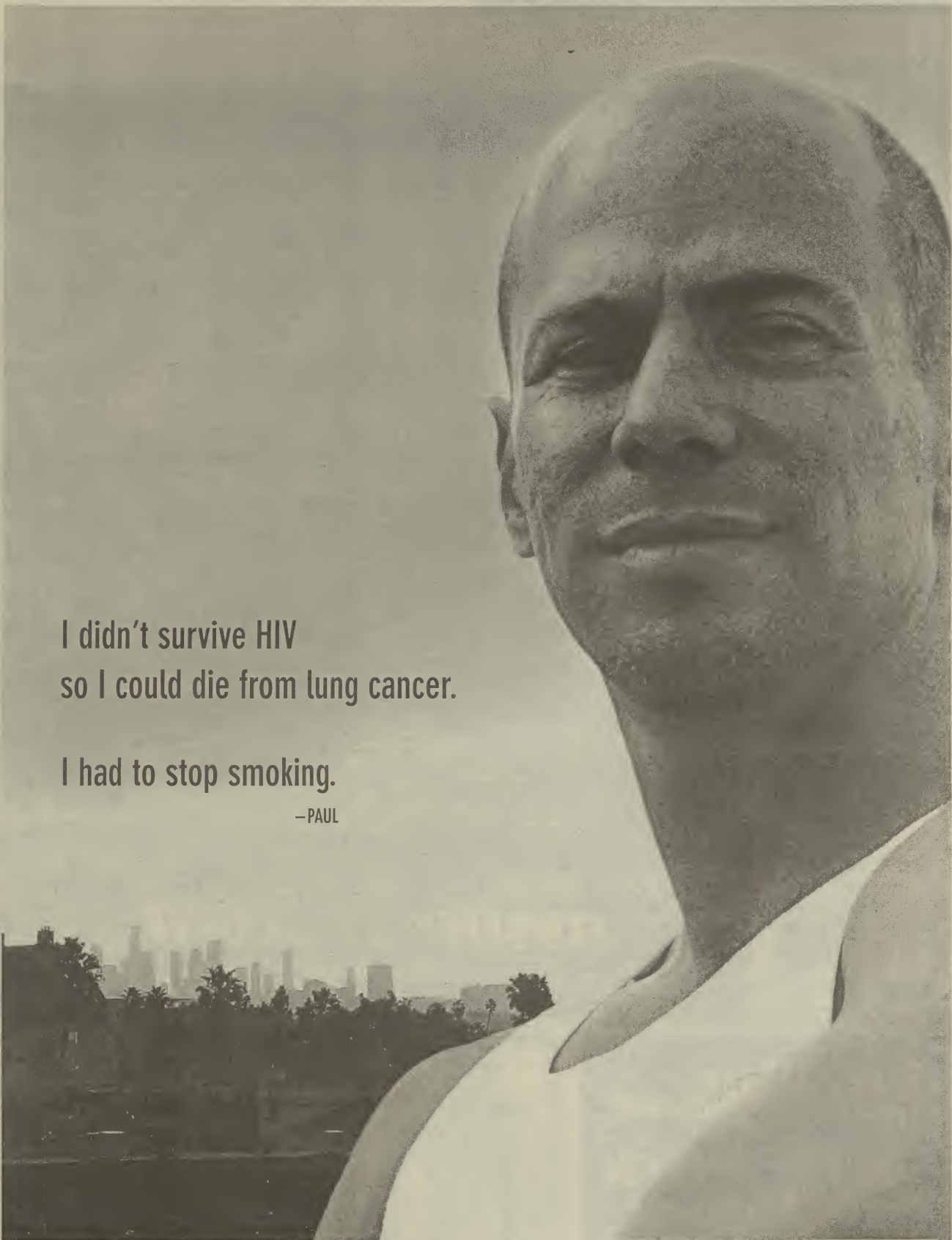
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